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Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

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in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

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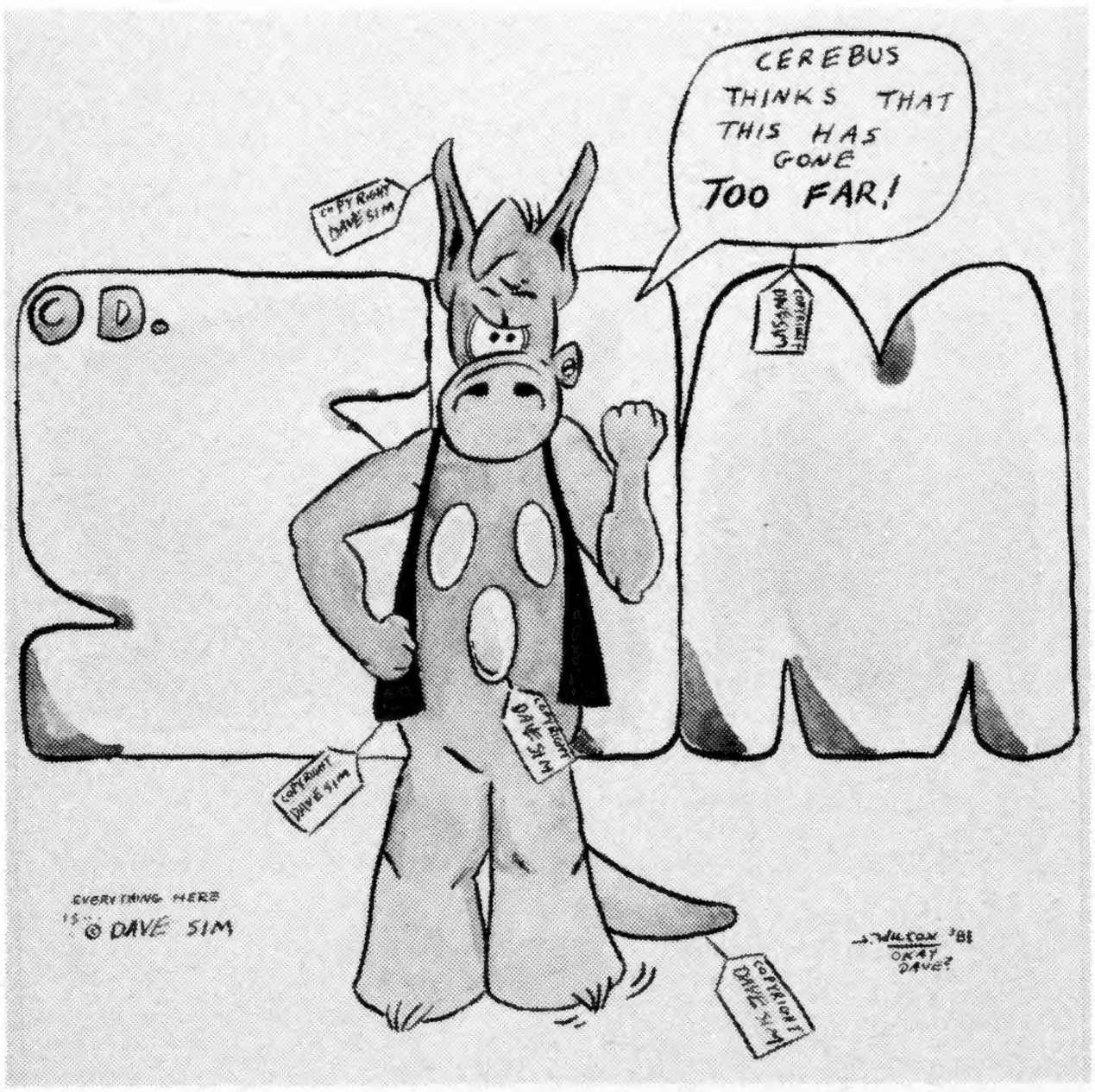
A Note from the Publisher



This is just a short note. Fred Patten has reminded me that fan club memberships are due to be renewed. If you are sending him a personal cheque — please remember to make it out to Fred Patten. He can't do anything with cheques made out to The Cerebus Fan Club, or whatever, so make sure that you have it right.

Poor Fred — he works so hard on all the Fan Club stuff!! Hey Fred! Keep up the good work! Oh yes — the above illustration was sent to us by John A. Wilcox of Westport, Connecticut, in answer to some comments made in earlier issues. I think that everyone has gotten the idea, John.

I'm sorry that this particular editorial is so short, but I do promise to try harder next issue. See you then!!

Deni

CEREBUS

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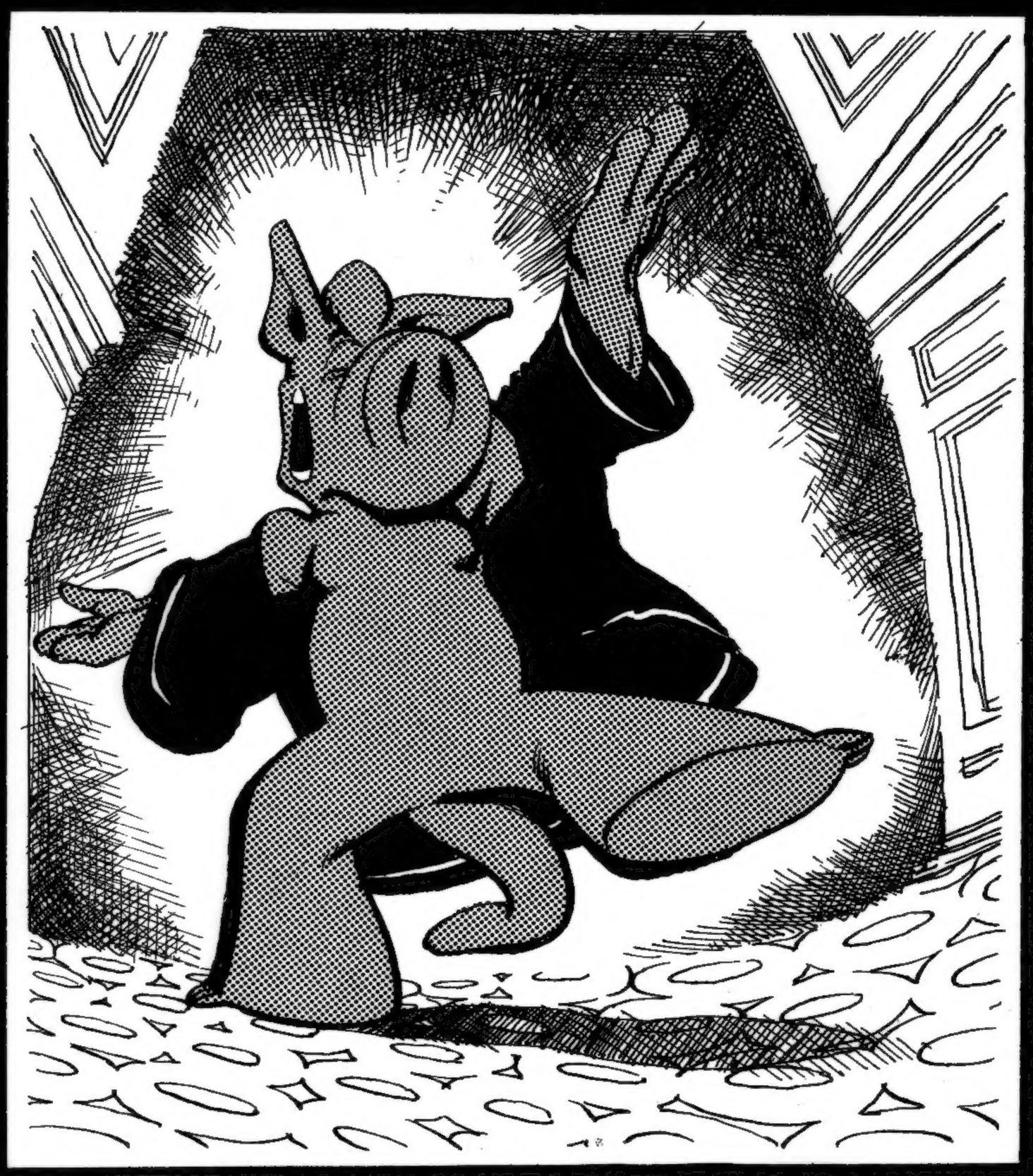
TWO DAY BEFORE

DAWN. THE EARTH-PIG RETURNS FROM SEVERAL HOURS OF CONCERTEDLY DROWNING HIS SORROWS AND WALLOWING IN SELF PITY. AND SO IT IS THAT THE ANCIENT WALLS OF **THE REGENCY** REVERBERATE WITH ALL TWENTY VERSES OF "THE BARMAID AND THE WATCHDOG."



THOSE VERSES HE HAS DIFFICULTY REMEMBERING, HE REWRITES, SUBSTITUTING "ASTORIA" FOR "THE BARMAID" AND A STRING OF EXPLITIVES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE LYRICS.

THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF *PALNU*...

MILADY.

DON' GIV'UM A TIP ≡HIC≡ 'STORIA!

'E ALMOS' DROPP'D CER'BUS ...

...*TWICE!*

JUST POUR HIM INTO THAT *CHAIR* OVER THERE...

AND I'LL *SEE* WHAT'S *SALVAGEABLE.*

WELL.

WE'VE HAD OURSELVES QUITE A NIGHT BY THE LOOK OF THINGS.

YEP.

WE SHER DID.

I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T *BOTHER* YOU THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE REPLACED AS RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE?

R'PLACED?

YES!

CER'BUS?

YES!

NOPE.

DOZEN BOTH'R CER'BUS A BIT.

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE ANOTHER DRINK, THEN?

S'GREAT IDEA...

MAKITA DOUBLE.

IF YOU *INSIST.*

SLUP

HEH.

GHH

NG

WUMBA WUMBA WUMBA

P-P-POISON?

JUST A *MEDICINAL COMPOUND*, ACTUALLY.

IT CURES *INEBRIATION* BY BRINGING ON AN *INSTANT HANGOVER*...

I THOUGHT IF YOU WERE SOBER ENOUGH TO READ THIS INVITATION ...

PLEASE -- DON'T SHOUT ...

WUMBA WUMBA

LORD JULIUS ... HOLY DAYS ... ELROD ... NOMINEE

Lord Julius presents

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at the REGENCY in Iest

Concordance Holy Days

Guest of Honour

His Highness KING ELROD

of MELVINBONE

(lord julius' nominee to be the next ranking diplomatic representative of PALNU in IEST)

SWELL.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE, BEFORE CEREBUS JUMPS OUT A WINDOW?

OH, FINE! KILL YOURSELF! TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT!

NNN

GO AHEAD!

LEAVE GOOD OLD ASTORIA WITH YOUR DEBTS... YOUR PROBLEMS!

OKAY! OKAY!

BUT IF YOU WANT CEREBUS ALIVE, YOU BETTER GET A DOZEN RAW EGGS, TWELVE GALLONS OF WATER AND SOME HOT TOWELS

QUICKLY.

BEFORE LONG

YOU SHOULD HAVE LET CEREBUS STAY DRUNK... CEREBUS IS **FINISHED.**

HARDLY, DARLING. WE'RE JUST SWITCHING TACTICS...

LORD JULIUS IS TRYING TO OUTFLANK US BY NOMINATING A MORE POPULAR FOLK-HERO TO REPLACE YOU IN IEST.

HE'S EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO ADOPT ELROD AS HIS SON, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY SEES IT AS A COMMITMENT FROM PALNU TO KEEP IEST SOLVENT.

IS IT?...

I DOUBT IT... MORE LIKELY LORD JULIUS IS THROWING THEM ELROD AS AN EMPTY BUT FLAMBOYANT GESTURE TO KEEP IEST BUYING FROM HIM EXCLUSIVELY...

SO HOW IS CHANGING CEREBUS' **IMAGE** GOING TO HELP?

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU THE BUSINESSMAN'S CANDIDATE.. ANNOUNCE THAT IF YOU ARE CONFIRMED AS RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE, YOU WILL USE EVERY LAST CROWN IN PALNU'S TREASURY TO SUPPORT IEST'S ECONOMY.

STARTING WITH A TRANSFER OF A HALF-MILLION CROWNS FROM LORD JULIUS' TREASURY TO THE BANK OF IEST...

CEREBUS DOESN'T **GET** IT...

LORD JULIUS WILL BE FORCED TO MATCH THE OFFER. IF HE *DOES*, WE **UP** IT TO ONE MILLION, ONE MILLION FIVE, TWO MILLION AND SO ON...

EVENTUALLY, HE'LL HAVE TO WITH-DRAW ELROD'S NOMINATION TO CUT HIS LOSSES AND PAY WHATEVER AMOUNT WE'VE PROMISED.

SO WHY DOESN'T THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY DEMAND THE MONEY **THEMSELVES?**

FOR THE SAME REASON THE LEGISLATURE WAS HESITANT TO VOTE AN INCREASE IN THE TARIFFS. THEY'RE AFRAID LORD JULIUS WILL CANCEL THEIR LINE OF CREDIT...

WILL HE?

NO ONE CANCELS A LINE OF CREDIT ANYMORE...

THEY JUST ADD ON MORE INTEREST CHARGES.

EVEN IF THE DEBT WILL NEVER GET PAID?

ESPECIALLY IF THE DEBT WILL NEVER GET PAID. IF PALNU CANCELLED IEST'S CREDIT THEY WOULD BE ADMITTING THAT THEY NEVER EXPECT TO SEE THE FOUR BILLION CROWNS IEST OWES THEM.

THEY WOULD BE WORTH FOUR BILLION CROWNS ***LESS*** THAN THEY ARE NOW... WHICH WOULD MAKE THEM A *CREDIT RISK*...

REQUIRING *THEM* TO PAY OFF ALL THE MONEY THEY OWE TO THE *SEPRAN* EMPIRE OR BE CRIPPLED BY THE INCREASED INTEREST RATES...

THEREBY PERMITTING THE *SERAN* EMPIRE TO, *IN EFFECT*, ***FORECLOSE*** ON PALNU...

IF THEY *JUST* ADD ON INTEREST CHARGES THEY CAN CLAIM IT AS FUTURE INCOME AND ***BORROW*** AGAINST IT...

THAT'S ***CRAZY.***

ISN'T IT THOUGH?

OF COURSE THE *SEPRAN EMPIRE* AND LORD JULIUS ***BOTH*** REALIZE THAT FORECLOSING ON PALNU AND IEST WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE...

AS THE NEW OWNERS THEY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO FIX THE ECONOMY...

TOO *ORNATE.*

SO THEIR NEW ANGLE IS TO NEVER SPEND MORE THAN YOU CAN PAY ***INTEREST*** ON.

TOO *BUSY.*

WHICH BASICALLY ALLOWS THEM TO *SPEND* TWENTY BILLION WHEN THEIR INCOME IS ***FOUR*** BILLION.

TOO OLD-FASHIONED.

IEST IS THE FIRST CITY TO REACH THE POINT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD THE INTEREST ON THEIR DEBTS ...

SO WHAT DOES PALNU PLAN TO DO?

MUCH BETTER.

LORD JULIUS HAS CONVINCED IEST TO PAY ONLY THE MONEY OWED TO ***PALNU*** IN EXCHANGE FOR MORE CREDIT.

BY NOT PAYING ANY OTHER DEBT, IEST ***ALMOST*** HAS ENOUGH TAX REVENUE TO COVER THEIR INTEREST PAYMENTS.

SO WHOSE SIDE IS CEREBUS ON?

NEITHER, ACTUALLY.

YOU TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO HAVE *MORE* MONEY THAN ANYONE ELSE...

THERE'S GOING TO BE A *LOT* OF MONEY COMING INTO IEST BEFORE THE SITUATION BECOMES *TRULY* HOPELESS.

IF YOU'RE THE *LAST* ONE OUT OF THE CITY BEFORE THE COLLAPSE, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING OUT WITH A *KING'S RANSOM.*

NO! THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO...

SOME WAY TO KEEP IEST SOLVENT ...

YOU *COULD* DONATE ALL YOUR *FUTURE EARNINGS* TO THE *TREASURY*...

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S NO POINT IN FINANCING A *LOST CAUSE*...

SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
THE MOST ***IMPORTANT*** THING RIGHT NOW IS TO CONVINCE THE PRIME MINISTER THAT YOU'RE A BETTER CHOICE THAN ELROD.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT...?
I'VE INVITED THE P.M. TO DINE WITH US THIS EVENING SO YOU CAN HAVE A NICE, LONG TALK
ABOUT WHAT...?
ABOUT YOUR COMMITMENT TO KEEP IEST ***SOLVENT*** EVEN IF IT BANKRUPTS PALNU...
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
OH.
THAT.
IF YOU CAN CONVINCE ***HIM***, THEN HE CAN CONVINCE HIS PARTY'S ***CAUCUS***...
SNIP
WHO CAN THEN CONVINCE THE PARTY *FAITHFUL* TO VOTE FOR YOUR CONFIRMATION IN THE LEGISLATURE.
WHAT IF CEREBUS ***CAN'T*** CONVINCE HIM?
THEN WE GO STRAIGHT TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH YOUR OFFER...
AND WE LET *THEM* CONVINCE HIM.
OH.

AND THIS IS GOING TO MAKE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY LIKE CEREBUS, IS IT?

THAT'S THE MOST *EXPENSIVE* HAIR TONIC IN THE CITY.

YOU SHOULD HAVE USED BEAR GREASE. IT LOOKS LIKE THIS, BUT IT ALSO REPELS BLACK FLIES...

YOU'VE GOT THE JACKET MATERIAL?

YES, ASTORIA.

AND THE VEST?

YES, ASTORIA.

AND THE SHIRT?

YES, ASTORIA

AND THE MATERIAL FOR THE *SASH*?

YES, ASTORIA.

TELL HER WE NEED THE COMPLETE OUTFIT NO LATER THAN MID-AFTERNOON

AND GIVE HER FIFTY CROWNS, WILL YOU?

TARIM.

"THE CHURCH WILL RETREAT BEFORE HIM AND TURN INWARD, LEAVING THE ONE TRUE MESSAGE OF THE EARTH-PIG BORN..."

"FOR THIS NEW AGE WILL BE THE AGE OF THE EARTH-PIG."

STILL HERE, EH?

"HIS FOLLOWERS WILL BE FEW..."

"BUT THEIR LOYALTY SHALL ENDURE FOR ALL TIME."

SPIFFY.

NOW CEREBUS HAS A PROPHECY FOR **YOU**...

I AM ***MOST*** EAGER TO HEAR IT, *M'LORD.*

"AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN HIS TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR THAT A MORON WILL BUG THE EARTH-PIG ONCE TOO OFTEN..."

"...AND FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, THE MORON SHALL TRULY HAVE TO GUM HIS FOOD AT MEAL-TIMES"

THE EVENING BEFORE

AH! THE REGENCY GARDENS "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDENS IN ALL ESTARCION"

THEY SEEM TO GLOW WITH THEIR OWN LIGHT AS THE SUN FADES FROM VIEW...

I HAVE THE *INCOME PROJECTIONS* HERE THAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT AT DINNER...

SURELY NOT ***TONIGHT***... THE MOON IS FULL AND THE SKY IS SO CLEAR. THE STARS WILL BE SHINING SOON.

HERE THEY ARE...

OF COURSE THE FIGURES ARE ONLY PROJECTIONS, BUT, THEY ARE BASED ON YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT'S CALCULATIONS OF INCOME...

=SIGH=

FOR YEAR ONE THERE'S A SUB-STANTIAL DEFICIT, ***GRANTED***...

BUT THE ***REAL*** GAINS...

WELL, YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF. STARTING IN YEAR TWO, YOU'RE GETTING A REAL GROWTH POTENTIAL ALMOST ***DOUBLE*** WHAT THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND FIFTEEN PER CENT INCREASES FOR THE NEXT THREE...

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME, *ASTORIA*?

YOU WILL BE ***PROMOTING*** THE ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION OF IEST IF YOU VOTE TO CONFIRM *ELROD*, WHEN THE LEGISLATURE RECONVENES

CEREBUS IS YOUR ONLY HOPE.

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE MISTAKEN, *CHILD*... ***MY*** ONLY HOPE IS TO DO WHATEVER LORD JULIUS TELLS ME TO DO.

IF YOU DON'T STOP HIM, LORD JULIUS WILL BLEED THIS CITY ***WHITE***.

THERE'S STILL ***TIME***.

I WISH I SHARED YOUR ***OPTIMISM***. ALAS, I PREFER LIVING UNDER A SINGLE THUMB, PAYING AN ENDLESS SUCCESSION OF INTEREST PAYMENTS EASILY ARRANGED AND REARRANGED...

ALL LORD JULIUS DEMANDS IS TOTAL AND COMPLETE OBEDIENCE AND MORE MONEY. EVERY TIME WE PAY HIM. HE'S BEING QUITE ***REASONABLE***, REALLY...

WE'LL ***FIGHT*** YOU, THEN...

NOW. NOW.

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH WITH SUCH FOOLISHNESS?

HMM?

OR DO YOU EVEN *HAVE* A GOAL?

I INTEND TO SEE TO IT, MR. PRIME MINISTER THAT CONTROL OF THE IESTAN ECONOMY *REMAINS* IN IEST...

IF THAT TASK REQUIRES MOVING THE REINS OF POWER FROM THE LEGISLATURE TO THE AMBASSADOR SUITE OF THE REGENCY HOTEL

THEN *THAT* IS WHAT I WILL *DO*...

YAWN

I *SEE*.

A *THIRST* FOR POWER BUT NO *STOMACH* FOR ELECTION.

YOU MOCK ME AT YOUR *PERIL*, MR. PRIME MINISTER.

I AM NOT *ACCUSTOMED* TO *LOSING*...

AT YOUR AGE NEITHER WAS I...

ONE GROWS ACCUSTOMED TO *ANYTHING*, ASTORIA ...

... IN TIME.

COFFEE?

YOU THINK LORD JULIUS *CAN'T* BE BEATEN AT HIS OWN GAME I'M TELLING YOU THAT HE *CAN!*...

COFFEE?

THE CUPS BETTER BE HERE WHEN I GET BACK OR I'LL HAVE YOUR LUGGAGE SEARCHED.

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS WITH ME, MR. PRIME MINISTER.

EVEN LORD JULIUS CAN'T ARGUE WITH THEM...

A FINE KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISOR YOU TURNED OUT TO BE. SELLING YOURSELF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER ...

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? ME?

LORD JULIUS.

YOUR MOTHER AND I HAVE BEEN TERRIBLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

WOULD IT HAVE KILLED YOU TO SEND A POST CARD?

LISTEN--ABOUT ELROD!...

SURE! BLAME YOUR OLDER BROTHER--BUT AT LEAST **HE** CAME HOME WHEN AUNT SOPHIE TOOK SICK...

WE SENT YOU THE FARE... BUT, NO...

CUT THAT OUT!

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, DEAR?

CEREBUS WAS JUST THINKING OUT LOUD...

WHY DIDN'T SHE RECOGNIZE YOU?

ASTORIA?

IF SHE WAS EVER CAUGHT NOTICING A HOTEL WAITER, SHE'D BE DE-SPOONED BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE CIRINIST REVOLUTION.

BUT, ENOUGH ABOUT ASTORIA. THE NIGHT REEKS OF ROMANCE, THE MAD BLOOD OF YOUTH POUNDS IN MY VEINS

AT DAWN, THE FESTIVITIES COMMENCE AND THE BEER TICKETS ARE TWELVE FOR A CROWN.

LET CARE AND WORRY BE FORGOTTEN! LET JOY AND MERRY-MAKING RULE THE CITY.

CAN I PENCIL YOU IN FOR THE "GRAFT: BOON OR BLESSING" PANEL?

ONCE HE IS IN HIS NEW CLOTHES, *MR. PRIME MINISTER*, YOU WILL SEE WHY BUSINESSMEN EVERYWHERE WILL SOON FLOCK TO HIS SIDE ...

WHY I AM DEALING FROM A POSITION OF ***STRENGTH*** -- NOT WEAKNESS...

GAK!

A FLOCK OF BUSINESSMEN, *EH?*

THAT'S ABOUT AS ***GRISLY*** A PIECE OF IMAGERY AS YOU'RE EVER LIKELY TO HEAR...

HE'LL BE CHANGED IN A FEW MINUTES, MR. PRIME MINISTER I DO HOPE THIS WILL HELP TO

CLIK

KNOCK KNOCK

M'LORD?

YO.

THERE'S A MISTRESS **JAKA** HERE TO SEE YOU M'LORD.

M'LORD?

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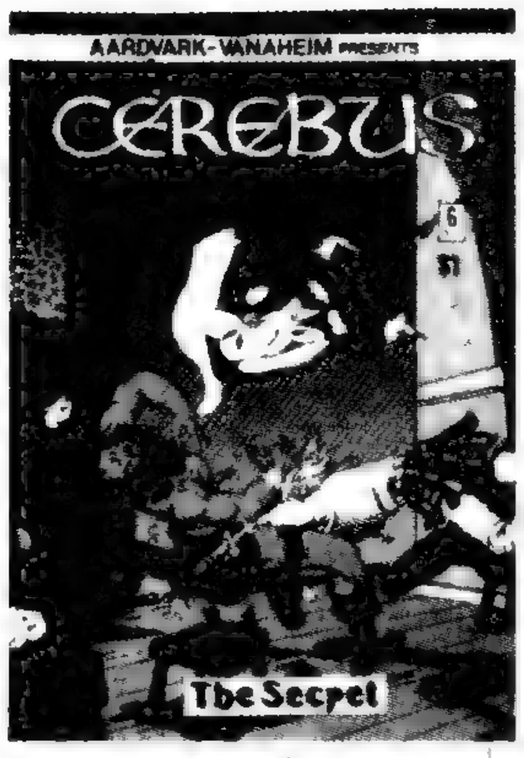

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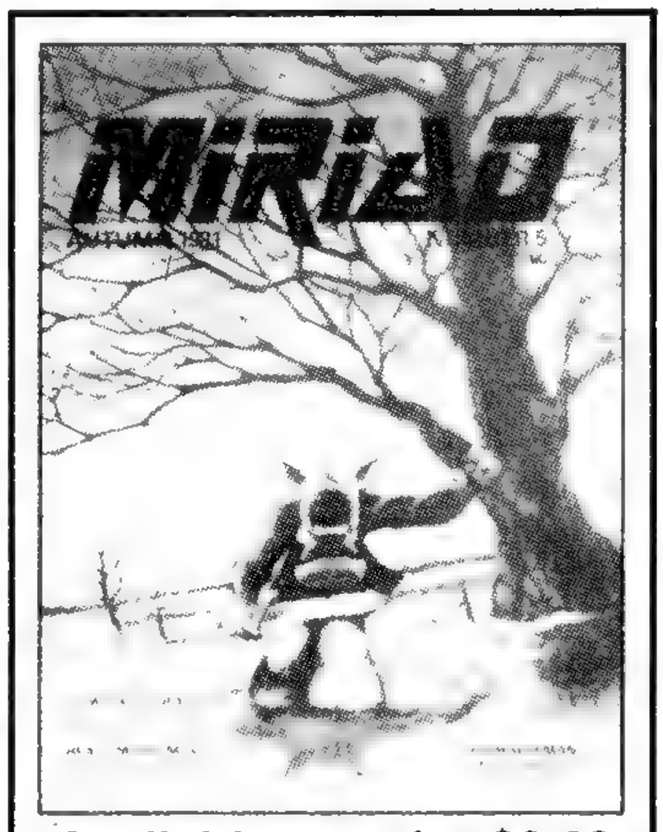

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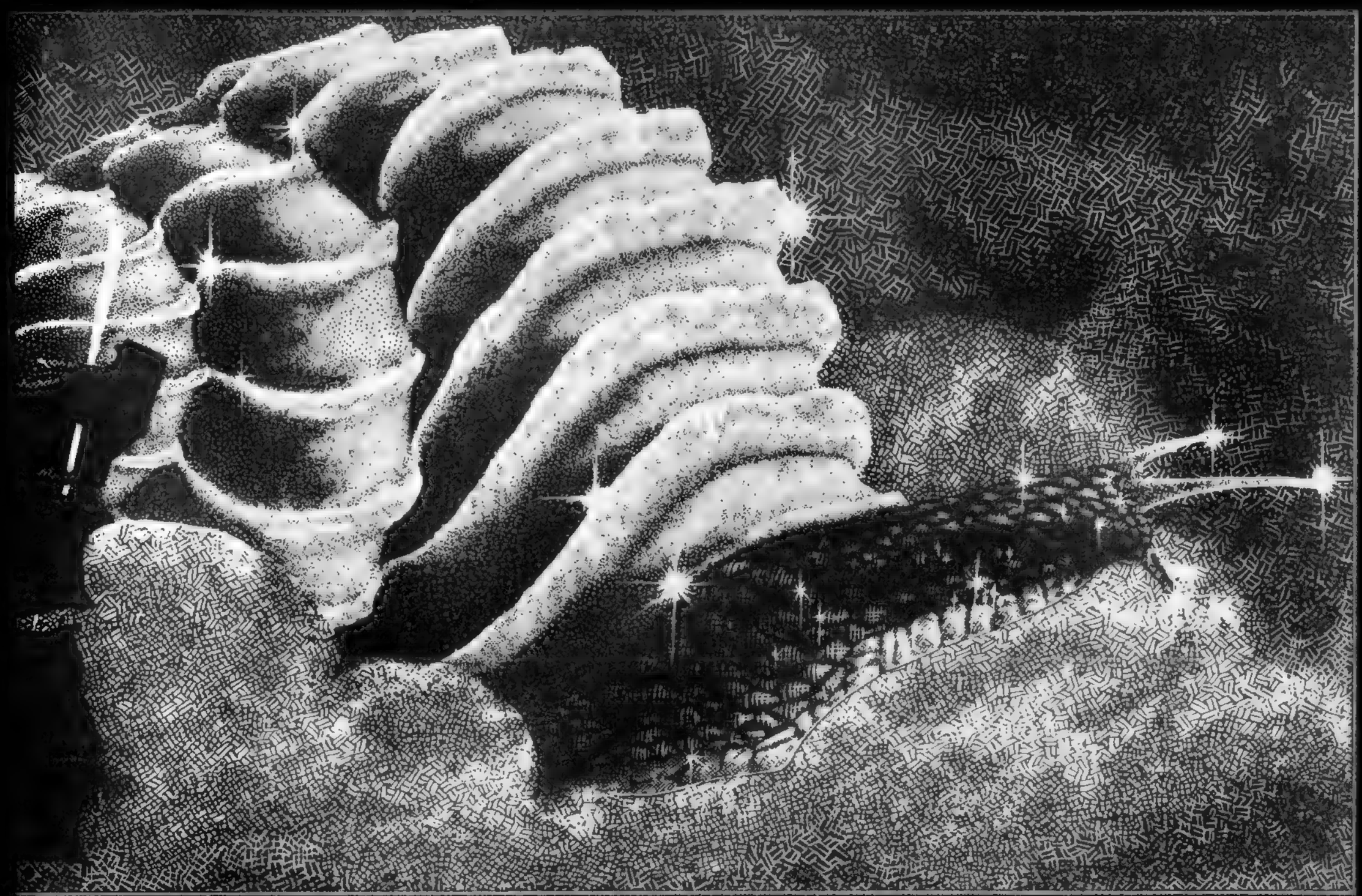

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A UNIQUE STORY

BUT, MARCUS... THE PLAGUE... WHAT...?

GYHAAAAA

GHAA

YAAAAAAAG

MARCUS... WHO.....?

SOME PAINTER... LEONARDO DA... DA.... DA.... ...QUINCY?

DA VINCI, SIR.

THANKS, JOAN. DA VINCI. HE GETS A LITTLE STRANGE EVERY HUNDRED YEARS OR SO...AND I HAVE TO BLAST HIM TO POWDER.!

ZAP!

"Wecome to Heaven, Dr. Franklin..." Part 2

©1981 WM. TRAVIS/LOBS

I REFUSE TO EVEN **DISCUSS** WITH YOU WHILE THE GREATEST GENIUS IN HISTORY LIES THERE AS A PILE OF SOOT!

OH, ALRIGHT... *PRESTO, TRANSMUTUM EST...* WHATEVER! UP AND AT'EM, **LEONARDO!**

"... WHILE THE GREATEST..."

BETTER! YOU SEE, **MARCUS,** EVEN GODS MUST FOLLOW CERTAIN ETHICAL...

RIGHT... RIGHT... **SORRY...** I GUESS YOU CAN'T BE ROMAN EMPEROR FOR TWENTY YEARS WITHOUT GETTING A LITTLE **MEGLO!** PRETTY SMOOTH RESURRECTION, THOUGH, YOU'VE GOTTA ADMIT!

STILL **BEN,** YA CAN'T RUN HEAVEN WITHOUT CRACKING A FEW ANGELS... EVER STUDY THE **HISTORY** OF THE OL' **U.S.** OF **A.**?

YEW...ESS.??
THE UNITED STATES? WHY, I HAVE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF THE LAST **TWENTY YEARS** SECURING INDEPENDENCE FOR THESE COLONIES, AND INSURING THAT TYRANNY AND DESPOTISM...

OH, YEAH... WELL THE SCENARIO DIDN'T QUITE **TURN OUT** THAT WAY...

Y'SEE, AFTER THE SOUTH WON THE **CIVIL WAR** AND LEFT THE UNION...

M.O.M.U. UNCOVERS PLOTS...

"INSURING THAT TYRANNY AND..."

CIVIL WAR...?

...SHE REJOINED THE *BRITISH COMMONWEALTH,* WHILE THE **NORTH,** NEEDING AN ALLY, JOINED UP WITH AUSTRIA—LATER GERMANY.

OF COURSE, FIFTY YEARS LATER THE UNION *RE-FORMED* BECOMING THE **GREATEST** INDUSTRIAL NATION ON EARTH.

HOKAY, **BEN,** LET'S GET DOWN TO CASES... AS *AHEM* VICE-GOD, HAVE YOU GIVEN A THOUGHT TO WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES YOU'D WANT, JOB-WISE?

SO IT WAS ALL FOR THE BEST.!

I SEE.

PLOTS PLOTS EVERYWHERE

THEY'RE ALL AGAINST ME!

WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT, **MARCUS**...

...YES, I HAVE! IF I MIGHT MAKE A *FEW* NOTES....?

UH... SURE... GO RIGHT...

THERE NOW... THE *FIRST* THING OF COURSE, WOULD BE TO **HALT** THESE *CRUCIFIXIONS*... ESTABLISH A *PENAL* SYSTEM TO **REFORM** THE MORE RECALCITRANT SOULS...

1st weekly Schedule

(1)

(2)

(3)

AND A **NEWSPAPER!** THERE IS NO GREATER *HEDGE* AGAINST *DESPOTISM* THAN A **FREE PRESS**...

... KEEPING IN MIND, I'M THE **DESPOT** WE'D BE *HEDGING* AGAINST...

YES, YES... I WOULD OF COURSE AGREE TO BE EDITOR... A *POSTAL SERVICE*, THAT'S ALWAYS A HANDY THING... MY, THOSE **BIFOCALS** ARE CHARMING...

DID YOU KNOW **I** *INVENTED* THEM?

...AND A *PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT*- THE *STAIRWAY TO PARADISE* IS IN DREADFUL REPAIR... NOT TO MENTION THESE COLUMNS...

...CLEAN OFF THE IVY... A BIT OF CAULKING...

CIVIC PRIDE IS IMPORTANT... NOW A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT...

UH-HUH... UH-HUH...

ACTUALLY, **BEN**, ALL THIS SOUNDS A LITTLE-COMPLICATED. I WAS THINKING...

...THAT FOR YOUR **FIRST** ASSIGMENT WE'D TRY SOMETHING *SIMPLE*.. LIKE... WELL, OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD...

DESTROYING ALL **LIFE** ON *EARTH*... SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

...NOT THAT YOU'D HAVE TO DO MORE THAN *PULL THE PLUG*... THE WORLD'S ALREADY **ABORT**...

I DON'T UNDER...

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.. JOAN, TURN ON THE *WAYBACK MACHINE*.

RIGHT, CHIEF.

Y'SEE, BEN, THIS IS A PORTAL TO THE *END OF TIME*... 1975.

AMAZING! HOW DO YOU **INVENT** SUCH THINGS?

I'M GOD.

YOUR PARDON. I KEEP FORGETTING.

NOW... THIS GETS COMPLICATED..

LIKE I SAID THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE STATES WERE **ALLIED** TO ENGLAND AND GERMANY...

...SO WHEN THE WORLD WAR BEGAN, THE U.S. WAS STRICTLY **NEUTRAL**. THE WAR DRAGGED ON FOR THIRTY YEARS...

..BESIDES, BEN, IN HEAVEN THE **PAST, PRESENT** AND **FUTURE** ALL EXIST AT THE SAME TIME... HANG ON...!

...UNTIL, FINALLY, GERMANY, DYING AND DESPERATE, WENT **NUCLEAR**!

...UM..."NUCLEAR" MEANS... WELL, I'LL LET YOU LOOK IT UP...

...AND HERE WE ARE... BUSTLING DOWNTOWN NORMANDY!

IT'S SO QUIET... IS ALL OF **FRANCE** LIKE THIS?

TH' **WORLD**, GUY, TH' **WORLD**! THERE'S ENOUGH RADIATION HERE TO TOAST MARSHMALLOWS... MEGA-DEATH CITY

"...ONLY A FEW GRUBS AND INSECTS ARE VISIBLE..."

UH, BEN... DOESN'T TAKING **NOTES** AT THE *END OF THE WORLD* STRIKE YOU AS A TAD... REDUNDANT?

"...THE SEAS ARE ENTIRELY STERILE..."

...BUT, MARCUS, WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE **HUMAN RACE**?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK.

HERE SHE COMES NOW...

OFF COP!

DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN... I GIVE YOU THE HUMAN RACE...

PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, HUH?

SNURK?

CAFF

CAFF

TA-DA!

IMAGINE, BEN, THE ANCESTORS OF THAT SAID "GOD IS DEAD"./ WELL, I'M STILL HERE... AND GEEKY'S ALL THAT'S LEFT. IT'S YOUR PLAY, PAL. RUN WITH IT...HOW DO WE TERMINATE...? LIGHTNING BOLT? SLEEPING PILLS? SHARP STICK? WHAT...?

NO...NO! I WILL NOT./ THEE HAST MADE OF THE WORLD A CHARNEL HOUSE BUT I WILL NOT BE THY EXECUTIONER./

NOW, DON'T GO ALL QUAKER ON ME, BEN...

BZZZ

'COURSE, WE COULD USE HER TO START HUMANS OVER AGAIN... THE WHOLE EVE AN' ADAM SCENARIO.

HMM...GENES ARE PRETTY TWISTED THO...PROBABLY JUST GET MUPPETS OR SOMETHING..

NOPE, BETTER TO CUT OUR LOSSES ON THIS ONE...HA./ "GOD IS DEAD"./ IRONY-WISE, THAT'S RICH./

TRUE. GOD IS NOT DEAD.

HE IS MAD.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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ACROSS CANADA AND AROUND THE WORLD

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni

I received the Diamondback Deck yesterday .... along with the late Christmas cards and the latest 'overdue' notices .... and was blown away! I'm running right out to get another couple of decks so I can immediately start sucking friends into a playing circle. I see a great future looming .... like the punchline of one of Elrod's bad jokes -- that's a literary reference, son -- I say, I see a great future ahead for the noblest of the frittersome pastimes of CEREBUS' epoch. In a few short cons we'll see the games rooms given over heavily to Diamondback .... if only to keep the costume parade losers from going out and beating up on people at random just to let off steam! Fan Guests of Honour will routinely be kidnapped merely to play for shares of the ransom! As Diamondback grows to eclipse D-and-D and even SCRABBLE, there will rise a public call for a return to the gold standard. No one will trust paper money any more .... and besides, they'll need gold crowns to play with. The really high-class joints will trash their booze lists in favour of a return to the ale standard and they'll return at the same time to the sawdust standard on their floors .... because Diamondback players will demand authenticity. Within weeks, the first arrest will be made for illegal gaming at Diamondback. But the suave defendant will be let off unconditionally basing his successful defence on the principle that, the way any seasoned player goes at the game, there is **no** element of chance involved in it. The papers will carry front-page photos of this champion of The Cause showing clearly his stout sword hanging at hip and a mean-looking Gerger Mark I peeking coyly out the top of one rustic boot. Some (the as-yet-uninitiated minority) will wonder at the nature of his dress; tunic and cloak in aardvark grey .... and, oh, yes, the unmistakeable tight black breeches that mark him as a sharpie. And that evil glint in his roguish eyes .... Within the year, Contact Bridge clubs will have disbanded in confusion to be replaced by Diamondback Parlours. As supporters of the game take their majority positions on most legislative assemblies in the land, following a sweep by CEREBUS-ticket candidates in the general elections, new laws will quickly be enacted allowing all-night sales of alcoholic beverages in properly licensed houses of prostitution. In short, the stage is set for the dawn of a bright new age ....

But seriously folks .... who needs reality? This is not the first time the creation of an expert fictioneer has been made real and palpable by the sheer will of the masses and finally accepted into the language and practice of the western world. Look at the French Revolution...and toothpaste...and MOTHRA...and so on, and so on, and so on... Topical these days is the debate about Three-Handed Whist. The latest, best evidence has the ideas springing fully-framed and feathered into the mind of that late-recognized genius Charles Darwin, albeit in a dream. (You have to do something to while away the delerious hours of seasickness aboard a heaving ten-gunner headed for heathen climes ....) However, on wakening, Darwin reviewed his notes, mistranslated his feverish jottings and came up with Five-Card Draw, not to be confused with the game that currently bears that name which was contrived in someone else's dream in the Colorado Territory in 1831. (What a strange coincidence ....) In the end, Darwin called his popular game of chance Straight Draw or, Natural Selection, in which the player is dealt 23 from each of two decks, the fall of the cards setting the pattern for the rest of the game, which can take years, even decades to play out. Unfortunately, this entrancing past-time is still officially non-existent in Tennesee.

.... But seriously folks .... really, this time .... I was delighted that the Diamondback Deck turned out so well. I'll be spreading the word here in Canada's capital as well as through my extensive correspondence network. I have already tried getting close friends to play with me, but I keep getting accused of making up the rules as I go along. That is only half right. And I won't be able to cheat at all when they finally DO get the hang of the game.

In the prevailing spirit of the computer age, I propose we establish a correspondence network for serious Diamondbackers. We could call it a user group. That could lead to a software exchange .... you know, every game of chance has it's sure-fire systems, usually drummed up by some retired math professor unsatisfied with old age and being out of the tenure game, in general. I even have a few off-beat ideas about alternate games that could be played with the same cards .... like fish with a bridge deck, you know? .... But I still can't figure out how to run Space Invaders on Diamondback with anything under 17 decks .. . (— oops! Just a bit of psycho-heartburn, there .... My morning with "The Beginners Guide To Microprocessors" just came back on me a little, that's all....) I have some interesting market news. A guy offered me my choice of his first-born male child or $200.00 for my CEREBUS No. 1 the other day. If I was of a mood to treat this sentimental treasure as a simple investment .... I'd be able to retire by the time I'm ready to retire (next year) .... But that's not all. In another recent conversation with a fringe comic freak I idly mentioned the fantastic success of CEREBUS thereby making an opportunity to drop your name, and he asked me, "How come no CEREBUS ploughshare project?" He works for the Government, you see, and talks like that all the time. In short, the fellow was amazed there were no CEREBUS mugs, calendars, desk pads, hasty-notes, or emblazoned undergarments available. I pointed out there have been some tasteful, thoughtful probings of the CEREBUS aftermarket, but nothing on a large scale. I mentioned the CEREBUS stuffed toy, the 'Dictator' T'shirt, the recent 'SINS' portfolio and of course the Diamondback deck. He wasn't impressed. In fact, he suggested a whole new innovative marketing approach for CEREBUS THE CONCEPT. In the radio music biz we call it crossover. You know, like when Dolly Parton does a country tune up-beat enough to be played in the contemporary format as well? You crash two markets. My friend (and I use that term purely as a convenience) suggested we rush a CEREBUS CUBE onto the market for the annual attack of winter doldrums that millions suffer each February. You'll recall, back in the early '70's it was Pet Rocks. We could make a million .... (but how many could we sell?)

That's about all from what one ascetic columnist here in Ottawa calls .... 'Ennui on the Rideau'. Deni, you should never have admitted, in the publisher's note in No. 26, that the mail is THE EVENT .... To me that's a worse temptation than being within ten feet of Margaret Trudeau with a fresh banana cream pie in my hands! Love to you both and stay well. It must be hell getting out another issue every 20 days. I'd hate to see your health suffer .... and I'd hate to be without my CEREBUS every three weeks. The arrival of the latest issue has become THE EVENT for many of us who hang around Joel's comic shop on Willion Street in the Market!

Glen Lisle
No. 1, 197 Cumberland Street
Ottawa, Ont. K1N 7H4

I'm sorry Glen, I was thinking about something else. Mind running that by me again?

Dave, Deni, Cerebus -

What a rotten weekend. Only two weeks of college left before I graduate, so the entire week-end was wasted working on final projects in two classes, and studying for finals in two others. Right now I'm supposed to be sleeping so I can wake up in three hours and go to work (graveyard shift), but it seems there is a bawdy orgy going on in the apartment below me. What else was I to do but grab my Cerebus collection (No. 4 and up) and begin reading.

Being able to read these buggers in one lump sitting (lump sitting?) does a wonderful thing for a person. Makes me wish I had a friend like our friendly (?) neighborhood earth-pig running interference for me. On the other hand, it makes computor-programming look as easy as falling down.

Anyway, I just wanted to say thanks for giving me some calm

cont'd on pg. 33

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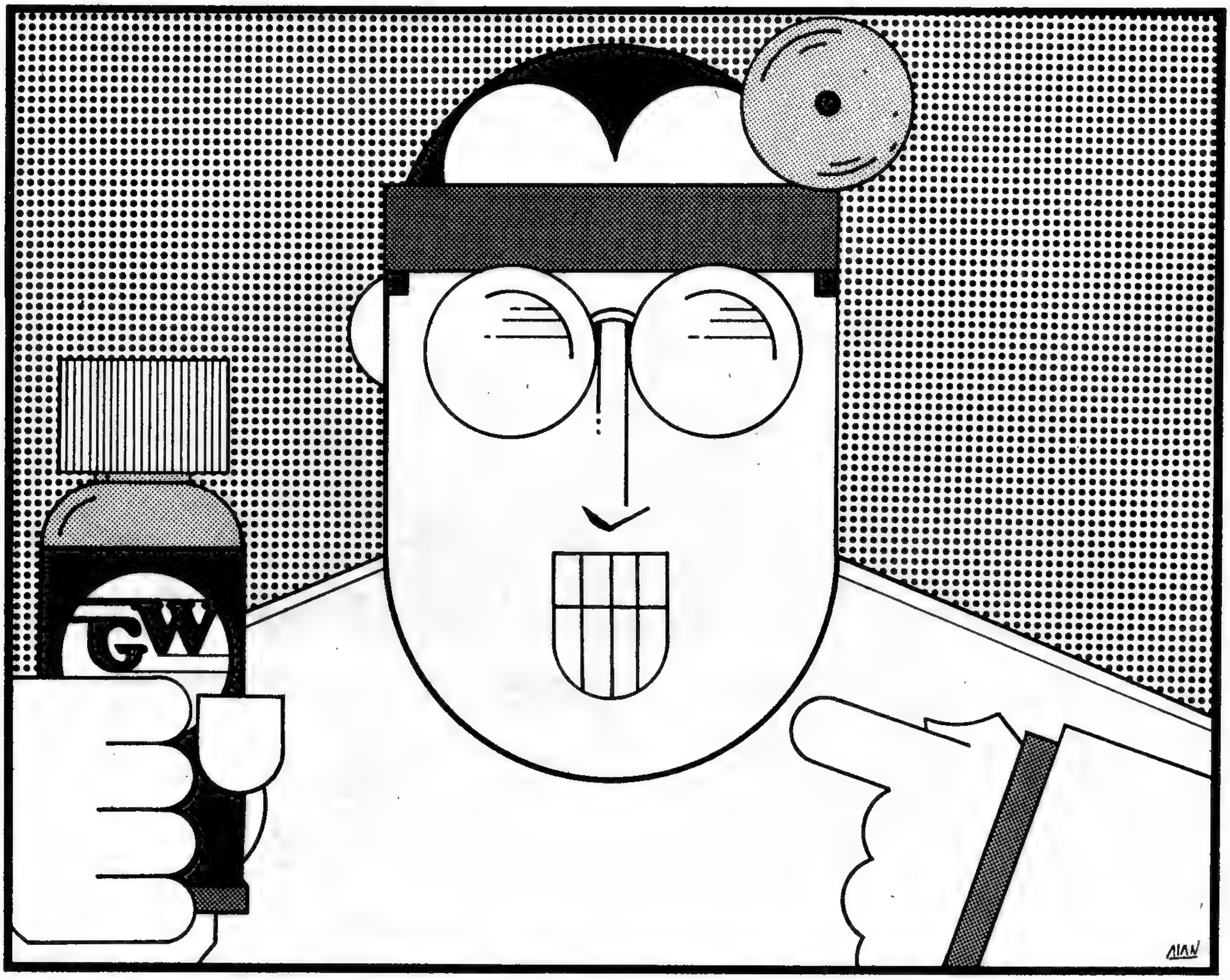

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

during this pre-graduation storm. You have definitely restored some of my sanity. Oh, by the way, one teensy-tinsy request: When are you going to honour us with the return of Jaka? I'm just dying to see what Cerebus' tongue looks like!

Danny M. Davids
6430 Chippewa Rd. No. 3
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80915

You should have come downstairs and joined in .... I didn't get home until four o'clock. I was blind for three days.

The "Prince Valiant" spoof (all ten pages) will be reprinted in Swords of Cerebus Volume 4. Just to keep my streak alive at three consecutive issues; if there isn't enough in Swords to make it worth buying, don't buy it.

Dear Dave and Deni

Well it's been one year since my last letter was printed, so ego-wise that calls for the second annual installment of "Cohen loves the aardvark". When Cerebus entered lest those many moons ago in No. 26, I didn't really go for the story line until the introduction of the regency elf. Talk about ways to wake up your readers! By the time you brought in the Moon Roach, I was half-expecting it. I just **love** schizophrenic characters! (DC's Firestorm being the one exception) Now all I'm waiting for is the long-awaited appearance of (wait for it) Lord Julius!

Since I've been a Marx Brothers fan from my birth (possibly earlier), I recognized him right away, and got some untypical laughs out of his excellence while my peers looked on, certain I was crazed. Do you plan to reprint your 'Prince Valiant' spoof from the Buyer's Guide of a couple of years back?

To sum up, I just have to say that CEREBUS is by far the best comic on the current market. I'm looking forward to a satire on Daredevil - perhaps a paraplegic superhero?

Keep up the work!

Jeffery Cohen
50 Shelley Lane
Great Neck, New York 11023

Dear Dave and Deni

Actually, I've been reading CEREBUS for a couple of years now. Sorry I didn't write alot sooner, since I imagine you needed the moral support alot more in those days. Well I just had to say "thanks" for what has developed into a distinct comic, and a unique approach to storytelling. By next year there will be scores of adolescent comic artists ripping-off your style. Not that I'm particularly looking forward to it -- it just seems somewhat inevitable.

Myself: I'm no one in particular yet, but I've been working on it for the past ten or so years. I hope that the mark I might someday leave would attain a similar level of respect and admiration which you've qualified yourself for time and time again.

Good luck to both of you for now, and for all the years to come.

Enough of this ....

I drew for you, this here picture - like drawing thing. It's a token, of course, so hey? Thanks.

Bruce Reynolds
1841½ 12th Street
Moline, Ill. 61265

Okay - uh - my topic for today - is-like-how everyone seems to think that everyone in the -um-Great White North ah, like, sound the same, eh? That really cheeses me right off and-like- I hope all o'you --ah-- Americans will stop being such complete hosers about it, eh? Like, take off if you can't even say something nice or anything. Jeez.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dave and Deni

Cerebus No. 33, or, "Friction", if you will, was the most enjoyable of the whole 'Moon Roach' bit.

In a way, I'll be sorry to see them go, but you and I know that you never let a good concept go to waste. In other words, after the current stint, I'm sure that they'll return at some convenient future date to further the fouling up of Cerebus' life.

By the way, are you aware that Cerebus is one of the only titles you actually need research volumes (or a **very** sharp memory and wit) to follow? The plots are **that** thick (and what if "the plot thickens" even further?). Blbtha ha ha ha! (he says insanely!)

Keep it up (or down, or however you keep it).

John A. Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, CT. 06680

*I've got research volumes **and** a very sharp memory and I still get lost from time time. Blbtha ha ha ha, indeed.*

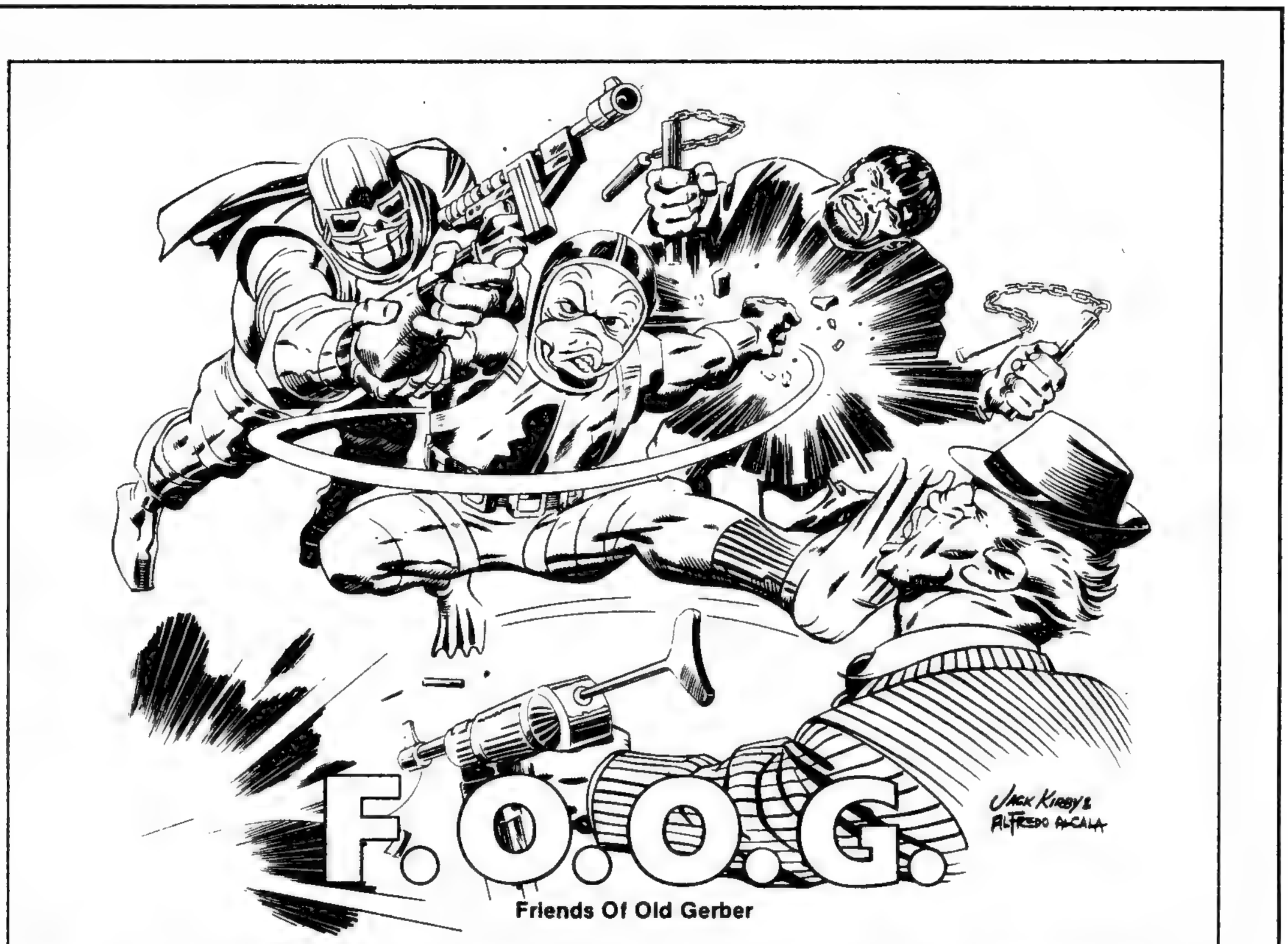
Dear Dave and Deni

The artwork of issue 32 was effective, largely due to Dave's extensive use of solid black spaces. Not just shadows, it included backgrounds, sillouettes, clothes; it suggested mystery, danger, spiritual darkness. Characters floated in an inky sea.

Speaking of ink -- most comics don't do this because their production methods won't turn out rich, solid blacks. Most comic black tones are grey and muddy. Why are your tones so nice and dark?

Leighton Ker
3167 18th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20010

Cerebus is as important to Preney Print and Litho as he is to us. When do you suppose was the last time someone at the World Colour Plant in Sparta read a copy of Spider-Man?



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Dear Dave

This letter is difficult for me, as in general I believe if you don't have something nasty to say, you shouldn't say anything (I do, after all, have an image to maintain); however, "Friction" was just SO overwhelmingly good that I found myself unable to hold back any longer. After all, one must always make exceptions for the exceptional, and CEREBUS is definitely exceptional.

As a greedy barbarian type trying desperately to make my way in the modern civilized world, I have always identified very strongly with the Earth-pig Born. Like Cerebus, those of us in the Atomic Age whose only goals are wine, food, a warm bed, and a sack of gold, are continually frustrated by the (to us) pointless machinations of those who lust after President Wiesshaupt's vaster goal of power. Like Estarcian in the Aardvarkian Age, the West in the Middle Ages missed its unique chance to change the equation that requires the acquisition of wealth through the pursuit of political influence. Cerebus is not dumb -- he's clever, practical, and shrewd. Yet, in the long run he is always bested because he simply doesn't understand how the rest of them think. Twice in the past two issues he has outguessed Astoria (which is not easy; so far the only conclusion I can draw about her is that she's never what she seems). But it is Astoria, not Cerebus, who is equipped to survive and flourish in the political power games of lest. All Cerebus seems able to do on his own is get upset. He screams that he wants "no more doing business with damn fools"; yet in the power-oriented upper society of Esarcion, that's the only way to get your wine, food, warm bed, and sack of gold.

As with Cerebus, it is generally assumed that I can't take care of myself (although, like Cerebus, I steadfastly maintain that I can SO take care of myself). Fortunately, I have been much more successful than Cerebus in the quest for the stuff that earth-piglet dreams are made of, primarily because I found my own Astoria three years ago. In my case, however, the alliance is less risky, since my Astoria anologue is a lot less manipulative of his allies and a little more scrupulous (my wife claims this is because he's a "mere male" and thus not equipped for the real thing). Also, I married a hard-headed survival-oriented type who keeps me from offending my elves (every barbarian needs a wife to keep him in line).

In a very real way, Cerebus speaks directly to the frustration all of us small businessmen feel. For Cerebus's sake, I hope his current success lasts a long time. It's no fun watching the "damn fools" run off with all the gold while you're slogging through the mud smelling like the back end of a horse. Alas, it looks bleak. The arrival of Elrod (what a marvelously hilarious ending to an hilariously marvelous issue) always seems to precede the Earth-Pig's worst calamities, so I figure he's got at the most three issues before it all goes to hell in a handbasket. Until then, we're all rooting for him out here (nasty that I am, I hooked all my friends, too). Good luck to him, and good luck to his creator. You are both very precious in this world of ours.

The Red Sweater
a.k a. Bruce Parrello
214 Willow Rd.
Streamwood, Ill. 60103

I'm glad you made an exception this time to your rule of saying something nasty. As to everything going to hell in a handbasket three issues after Elrod's return -- Well, you'll just have to wait and see.

FANTACON '81

Second in a series of four photo's by William C. Johnson of Dave, Deni, and friends at FANTACON in Albany, N.Y., September 18-19, 1981.

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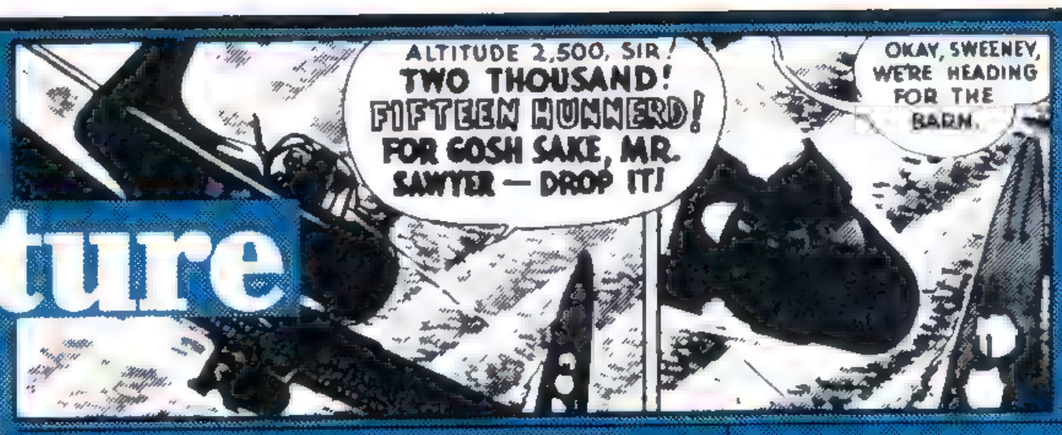

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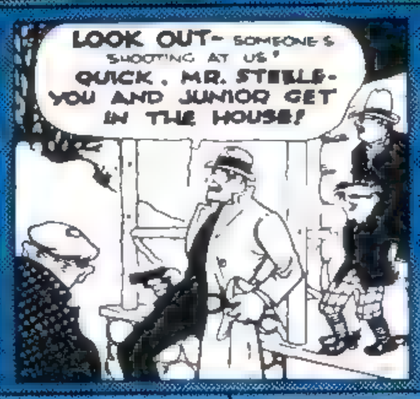

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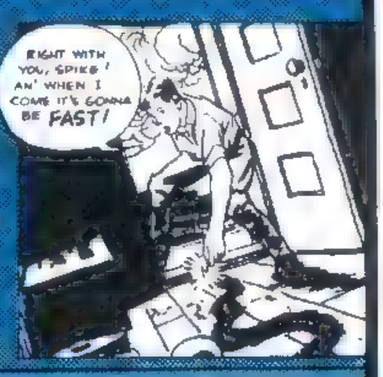

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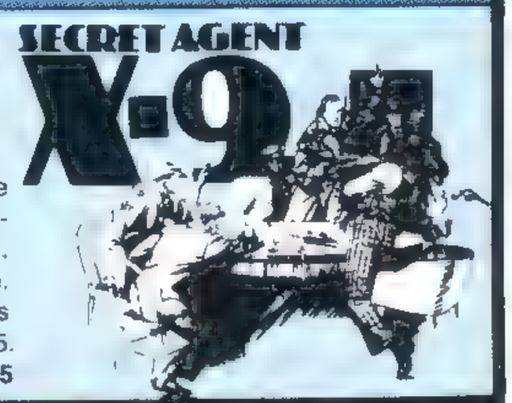

Capt. America & Marvel Comics
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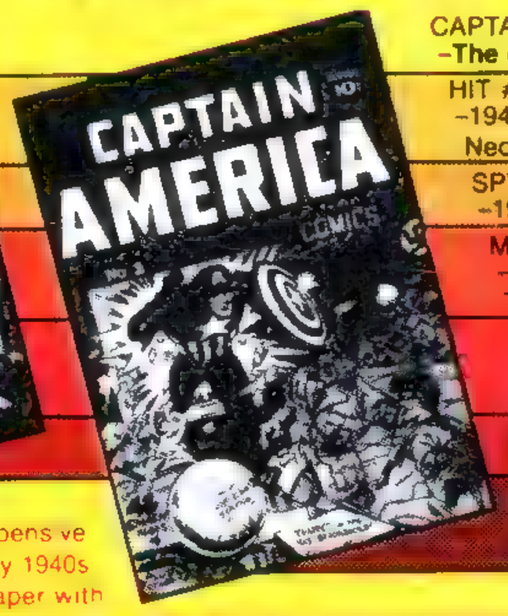
FLASHBACK! FLASHBACK!



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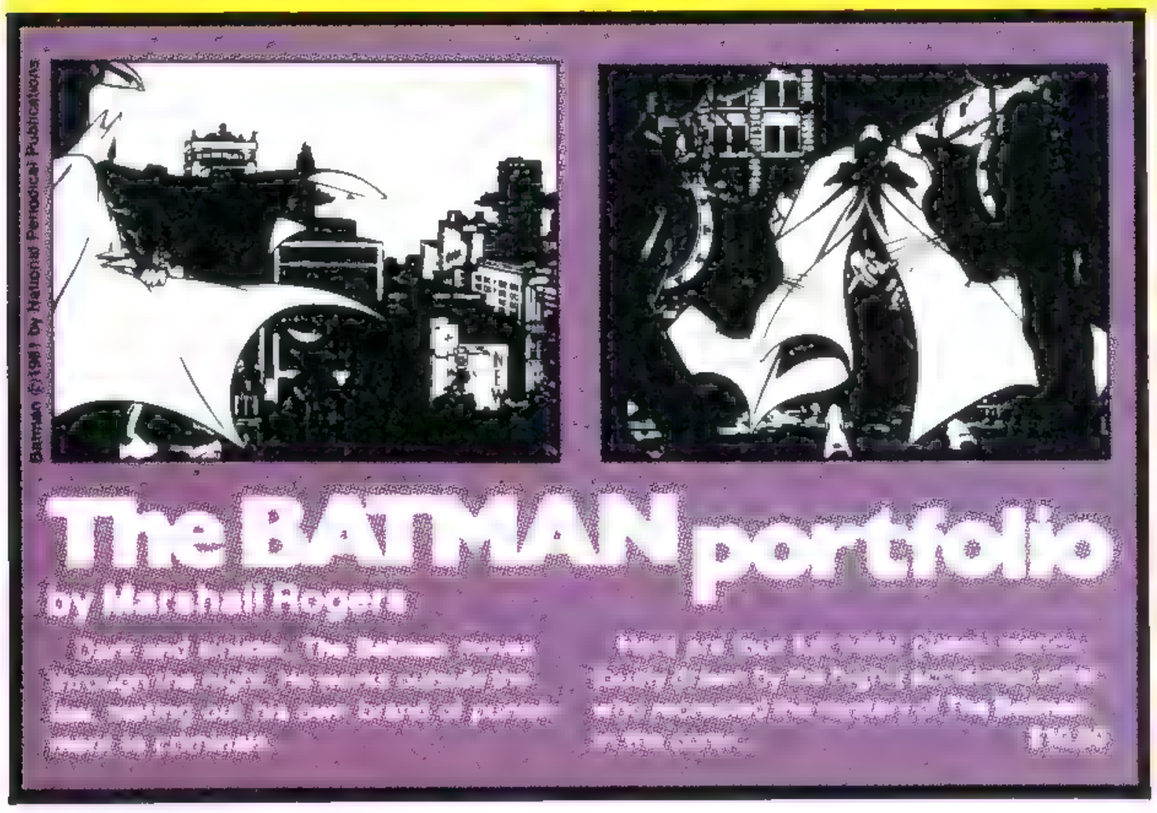

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CEREBUS ARCHIVE

"Paste-up of ad for Now & Then Books' Grand Opening at 90 Queen St. S."

- Dave Sim

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RICHARD PINI

"Elrod sketch inked by Michael T. Gilbert at the Now & Then Books' Grand Opening party."

- Dave Sim

Conventions

2435 1st Av. S. #3
Mpls, MN 55404

25 January 1983

Dave and Deni Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.
P.O. Box 1674
Station "C"
Kitchener, Ont. N2G 4R2

Dear Deni and Dave,

This is written in haste, so if I forget something important, write back. I enclose our progress report to give you some idea of what's progressing and an art show flyer in case there's anything of interest in it.

I haven't checked with our treasurer yet, but if you haven't arranged a flight yet, please do so soon. Let me know when it's to arrive, and I'll meet Dave at the airport.

Oh, yes. I believe Dave can choose a room by the pool (noisy, but some people think it fun) or on another floor (quieter, and offers a place to hide). Any preference?

Best,

Will Shetterly

"Art show specs for MINICON."

- Dave Sim

Security will be provided by the Minicon staff while the Art Show is open, and by hired guards at night. There will be a badger with a check table and orders to allow no cameras or large bags/packs into the Art Show room. There will also be a member of the Art Show staff in the room while it is operational.

Unless arrangements are made prior to the convention (at least a week in advance), for payment to the artist at the convention, checks will be made out and mailed during the week following the convention. The same also pertains to cash payments--we need at least a week's warning, if at all possible.

Art not picked up at the convention will be returned to the artist during the following week. If hanging fees and postage/insurance money have not been sent by the artist and final sales have not covered these costs the artiat will be notified during this week

Mail art work to:

Erin McKee
c/o Minicon
Box 2128 Loop Station
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Please insure it, and enclose a note saying whether it should be returned to you by mail or if it will be picked up at the convention. No art will be given to anyone without authorization by the artist. All art picked up at the convention must be picked up by 4:00 pm Sunday.

Art check in is after 12:00 noon Friday. The Art Show will be open to Minicon attendees 5pm to 8pm Friday, 10am to 7pm Saturday, and 10am to 12 noon on Sunday. Art may be checked in during open hours Friday and Saturday.

Art bid on may be picked up any time after the auction (for pieces that do not go to auction) or during/after the auction (for pieces auctioned).

The committee reserves the right to be arbitrary as to hanging space, auction category, or anything else. If you have problems, questions. or desires, please let us know and we will try to solve them for you. Nothing can be done if you don't.

Control sheets, bid sheets, and further copies of this flyer are available from the Art Show chairperson at the above address. I will also answer any queries you have, or at least try to.

"Art show specs for MINICON."

- Dave Sim

THE OFFICIAL MINICON ART SHOW RULES!

Hanging Fees are the same as last year:

$. 50 per individual piece of art work hung or displayed. This includes prints. Only one copy of each print is to be allowed into the Art Show this year, and they must be limited edition prints, individually signed and numbered by the artist.

Sketch table art is displayed free. This art will be sold by direct sale only and must have a maximum price of $15.

Commisions to Minicon are also the same as last year:

15% on all auctioned work or any sold for Quick Sale Price.

10% on all work sold from the sketch table.

There will be two auctions: One on Saturday night and one early Sunday afternoon. The first bidder will select the auction in which the piece is to be sold.

All art with two or more bids will be auctioned. Items with only one written bid will be sold to the sole bidder after the auction that bidder has chosen.

There will be a Quick Sale Price on the bid sheet. This is the price the art can be sold for only if no written bids have yet been made. No art will be sold for the Quick Sale Price before noon Saturday. The artist is not required to put down a Quick Sale Price, nor does this price have to be the same as the Minimum Bid.

There will be no selling of art work for Minimum Bid after the last auction. At this time, pieces will be available for Quick Sale Price only. Pieces with no Quick Sale Price written on the bid sheet will not be available for sale at this time.

The hanging fees cover cash prizes which will be presented to the winners of several categories. These will be announced at the convention. There will also be a most popular and a grand prize awarded.

Hanging space will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Art not hung will have table space. There is also a display case for small sculpture and jewelry. Art may be rearranged by the Art Show staff at their discretion.

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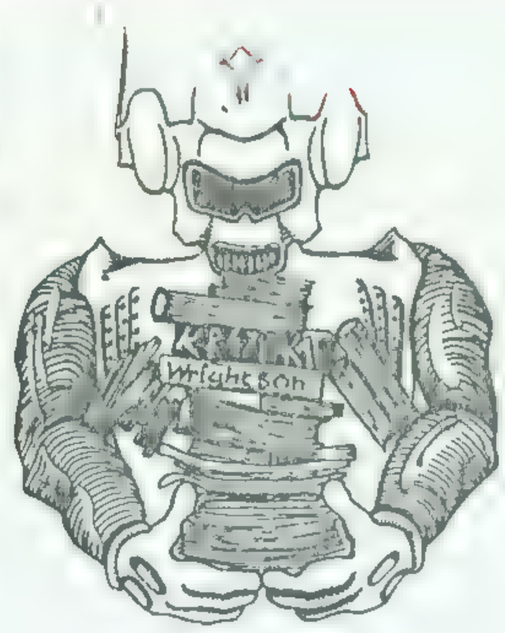

Karen -
Put letter in letter ID page box.

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Deni Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim,Inc.
Box 1674,Station 'C'
Kitchener
Ontario. N2G 4R2

January 31 1983

Dear Deni,

just a quick note to keep you up to date on the Cerebus buttons.
I've managed to get a much better deal on the badge components, which means I can reduce the US and Canadian prices! The new firm retail prices are:-

US - 75¢ per button or $3.00 for the set of five designs.

CANADA - 95¢ per button or $3.70 for the set of five.

I'll have the ad in the post to you in a couple of days & the buttons will be ready for shipping in seven days!

Best Wishes,

Rick

Rick Crowe

"Letter from Deni to Rick Crowe re: CEREBUS buttons and European Tour plans."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

February 9, 1983

205 B Mansfield Road,
Nottingham, England
NG1 3JS

Dear Rick:

Glad to hear that things are going well with the buttons. The ad will be placed in issue #48 and 49 (it just missed the deadline for #47). I did mention the buttons in my #47 editorial, though.

Oh yes - Dave and I are hoping to do a European Tour this October. If you'd like to be on it, contact Mike Lake at Titan Distributors in London. We're hoping you will, as it would be great to meet you folks after all these negotiations!

I'll be watching for the ad in the mail!!

Sincerely,

Deni Sim
Publisher, Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Letter from Deni to Rick Crowe re: CEREBUS buttons."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

March 1, 1983

205B Mansfield Road,
Nottingham,
NG1 3FS
England

Dear Rick:

Just a quick note to let you know I've not yet received your ad for the buttons.

The new retail prices are mentioned in the editorial to #48, along with your address.

Let me know what distributors are handling them.

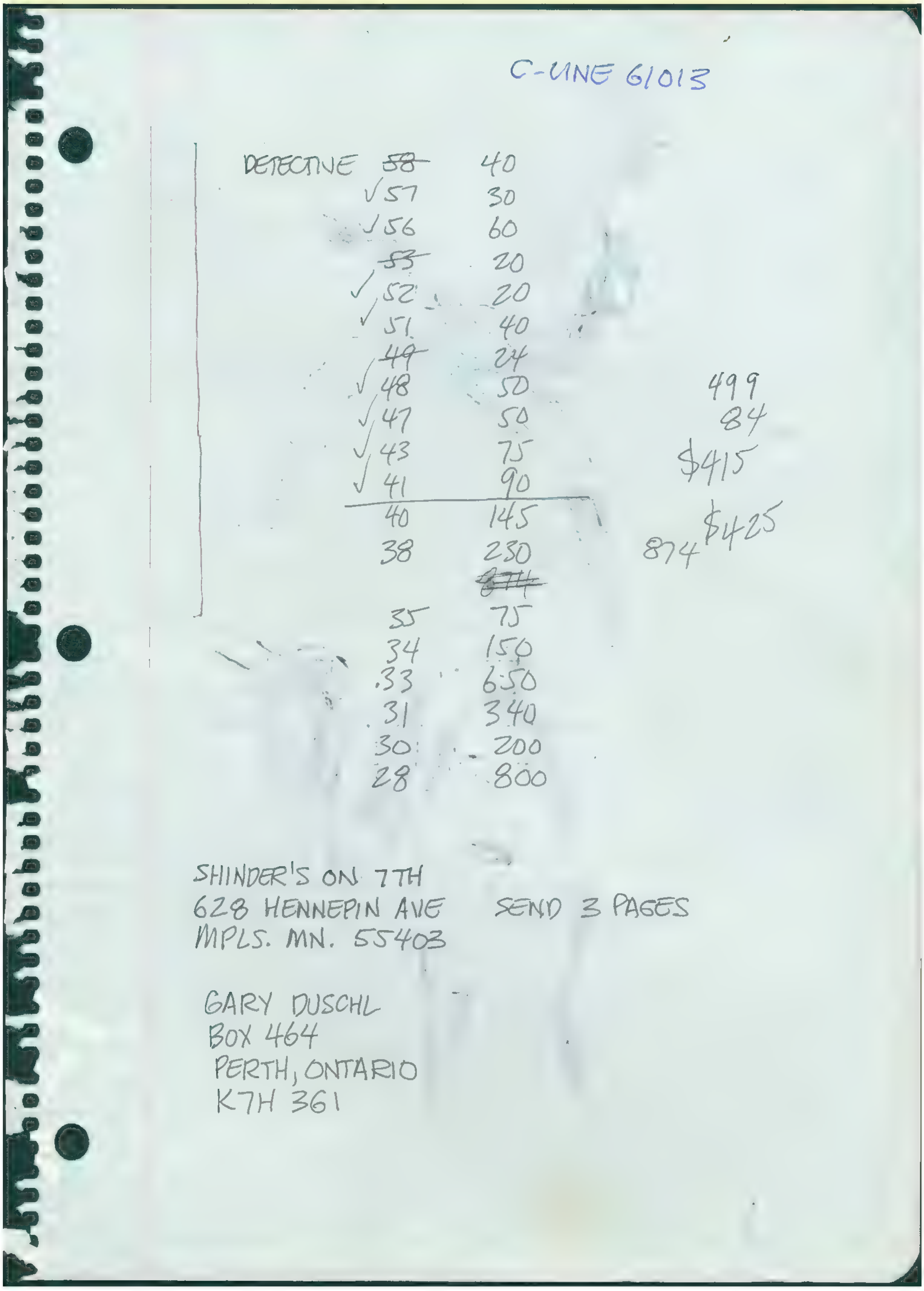
Sincerely,

Deni Sim
Publisher, Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.,

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"I had started collecting pre-Pearl Harbor DC super-hero comics. My last (God willing) go-round with the "collector bug". I mostly traded CEREBUS artwork for them but did pay cash on occasion."

- Dave Sim



C-UNE 61013

DETECTIVE ~~58~~	40	
√57	30	
√56	60	
~~55~~	20	
√52	20	
√51	40	
~~49~~	24	
√48	50	
√47	50	
√43	75	
√41	90	
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GARY DUSCHL
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PERTH, ONTARIO
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"Attempted drawings of Batman on obverse of previous page."

- Dave Sim

"Fan letter from Rick Pressley with photos from the '82 Tour."

- Dave Sim

DEAR DEN + DAVE + Cerebus

HI. THERE, SO SORRY ABOUT THESE PHOTOGRAPHS BEING LATE BUT I GOT TIED UP WITH SCHOOL, THE HOLIDAYS AND THE REST OF LIFE'S LITTLE ANNOYANCES. BUT HERE THEY ARE. HOPE I WASN'T TOO LATE.

I'M REALLY IMPRESSED WITH CEREBUS AND THE WAY HE HANDLED HIS FIRST TWO CRISIS, CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW IT ALL COMES OUT.

I ALSO WAS PLEASED WITH THE ARNOLD THE ISSHURIAN STORY IN EPIC ✓ AND WAS GLAD TO SEE HIM IN CEREBUS 46

THREE QUESTIONS:

1) SINCE CEREBUS KNOWS THE MOONROACH HAS AN IDEA ON WHERE THE ALBATROSS STATUE IS, WHY DOESN'T CEREBUS HAVE THE BIG BUG DELIVER IT TO HIM?

2) IN EPIC ARNOLD THE ISSHURIAN WAS SEEN STOMPING ON THE ESTRICON CITIES OF SERRA, IEST, AND PALNU. IS THIS A PROPHECY OF ARNOLD CONQUERING AND/OR LOOTING THESE CITIES?

"Fan letter from Rick Pressley with photos from the '82 Tour."

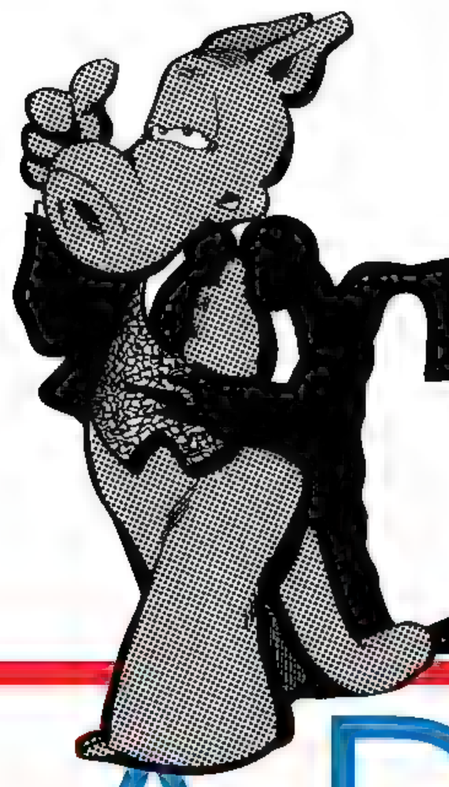
- Dave Sim

3) WHEN WILL THE ELROD SERIES COME OUT? HE MAY NOT BE A GREAT SWORDSMAN, BUT HE HAS TO BE THE GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST SINCE HARRY HOUDINI. HOW DOES HE DO IT?

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW:

RICK PRESSLEY

P.S. BET YOU ~~RUE~~ NEW SEPRAN CROWNS THAT TORONTO MAKES IT TO THE PLAYOFFS?

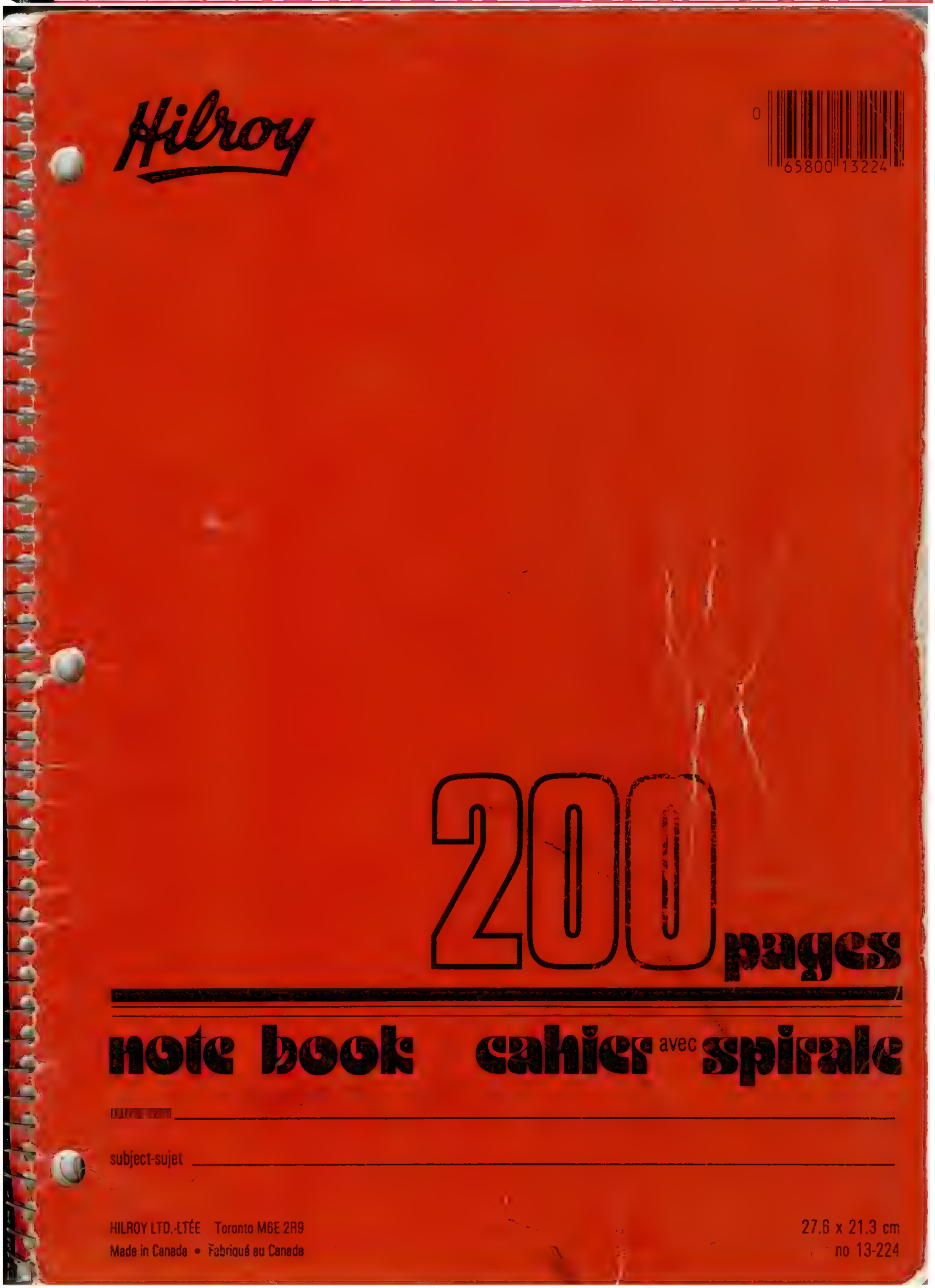


CEREBUS

ARCHIVE

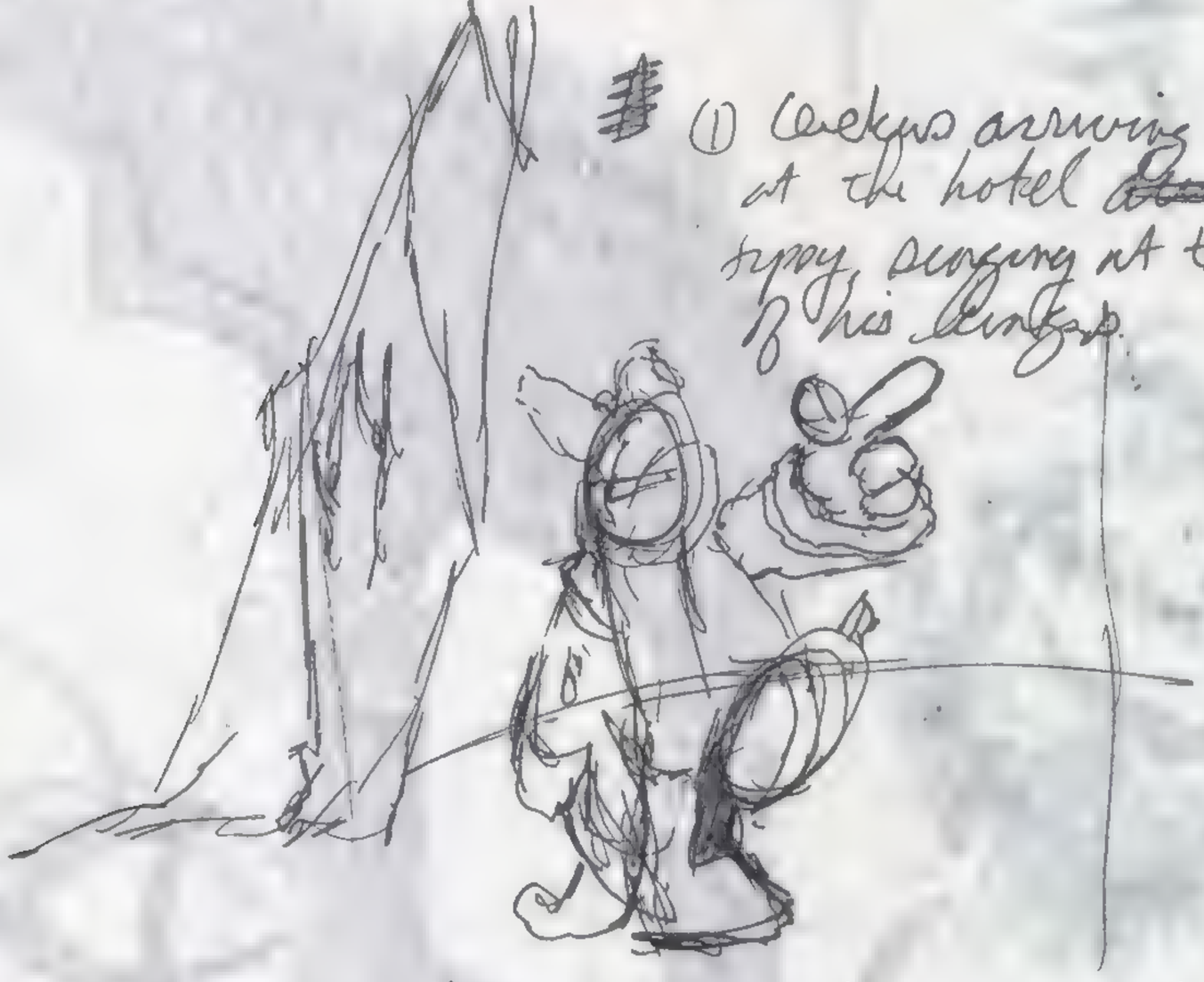
NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross Too"



I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

CEREBUS #35 (FEBRUARY 1982)
cover Cerebus and Brian Mule Muffin
background flag of the pigto.



① Cerebus arriving back at the hotel ~~Ormsby~~ typsy, lurching at the top of his lungs.

② Trying to tell him he's about to be replaced. Pg ② added it to him. Wow... She drugs him with something to make him sick Sick due can get through to him.

PAGE ① Cerebus drunk.
② Cerebus drunk doesn't give a shit.
③ Drink this. It ~~wakes~~ moves your hangover up a little bit.

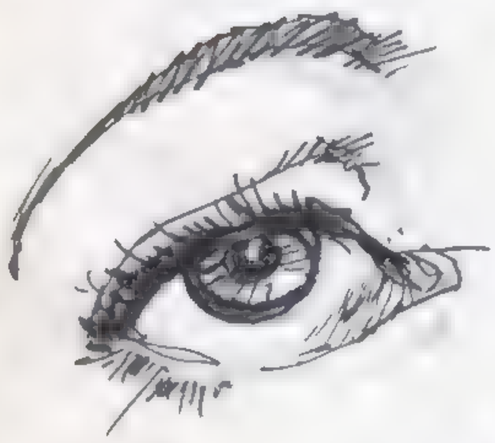
④ GLOOM AND DOOM!!
: please :
: don't :

#36 - Jaka tells him that he's wealthy
#37 - Tells Astoria that he's wealthy Why is he worried about money. Wealthy enough. Richard doesn't even put you in the right league if you wanted to have more money than anyone else.

HSANB 1/35 - Instead of waiting for Cerebus to sober up, I have Astoria give nim a drink that induces an instant hangover. A good example of having to accelerate the narrative because I was running out of room.

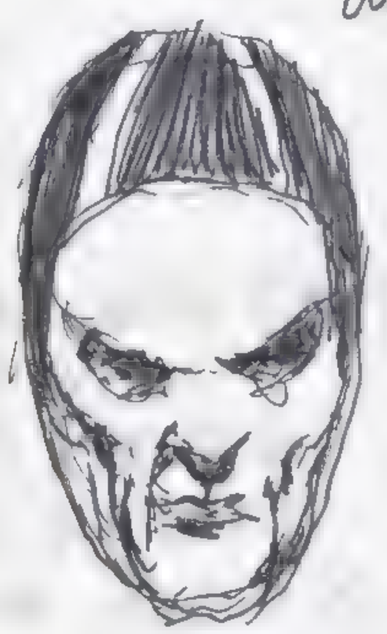
If asked about the legislation to increase the tariffs, you are to say that in your opinion it was a [redacted] idea whose time had come.

If asked about Elrod, Lord Julius, Palnu your relationship with any of them you are to say that you are exercising your authority



Sventevs Po: Elrod's eyes are elsewhere. Too many elsewheres. An administrator must be "here". Always. To rule you must forsake the magic

What about the last two lines.



#26 High Society
#27 Kidnapping of an Overdank
#28 Mind Game II
#29 ~~Debts~~ Repercussions
#30 Debts
#31 Chasing Costie
#32 Alliance
#33 Friction
#34 Three Days Before.
#35 Two Days Before.
#36 The Night Before.
#37 PETUNIACON Day one
#38 PETUNIACON Day two
#39 PETUNIACON Day three

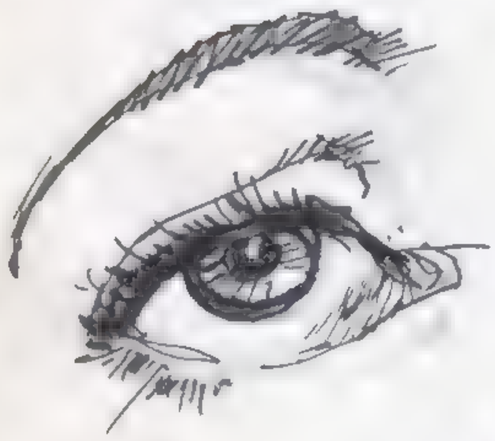
HSANB 2/35 "If asked about the legislation to increase the tariffs, you are to say that [,] in your opinion [,] it was an idea whose time had come.

"If asked about Elrod, Lord Julius, Palnu [–] your relationship with any of them [–] you are to say that you are exercising your authority." Astoria "debriefing" I didn't have room for.

"Elrod's eyes are elsewhere. Too many elsewheres. An administrator must be 'here'. Always. *continued...*

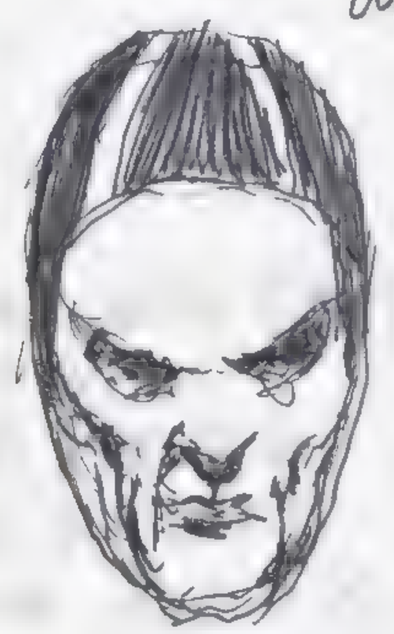
If asked about the legislation to increase the tariffs, you are to say that in your opinion it was a [redacted] idea whose time had come.

If asked about Elrod, Lord Julius, Palma your relationship with any of them, you are to say that you are exercising your authority



Suenteus Po: Elrod's eyes are elsewhere. Too many Sheweleres. An administrator must be "here". Always. To rule you must forsake the magic

What about the last two lines.



[redacted] wants out to

#26 High Society
#27 Kidnapping of an Overdank
#28 Mind Game II
#29 ~~Debts~~ Repercussions
#30 Debts
#31 Chasing Costie
#32 Alliance
#33 Friction
#34 Three Days Before.
#35 Two Days Before.
#36 The Night Before.
#37 PETUNIACON Day one
#38 PETUNIACON Day two
#39 PETUNIACON Day three

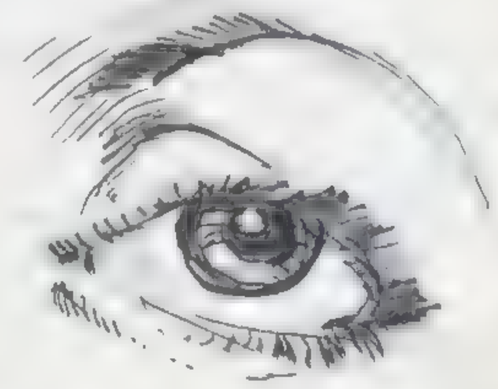
To rule [,] you must forsake the magic." Suenteus Po. I sure didn't have room for another Mind Game.

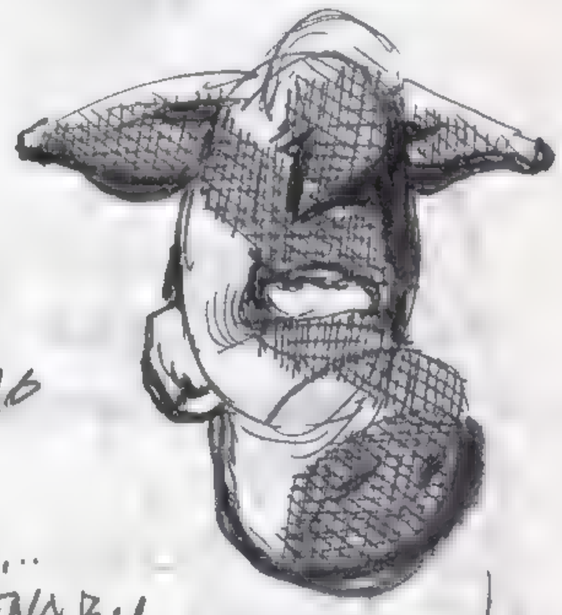
At bottom right, just writing down all the story titles to that point and the ones I now knew immediately afterward was a confidence builder – unlike the surprise a few pages back, discovering I was almost down to the last ten issues of HIGH SOCIETY.

#35 "Two Days Before" (February, 1982)

① DRUNK....
② We found him Astoria
③ sobers him up instantly
④ ~~never been done before. Out of~~ ~~TEST sending three representatives.~~
⑤
⑥
⑦
⑧
⑨
⑩
⑪
⑫ The Day Before
⑬
⑭
⑮
⑯
⑰
⑱
⑲
⑳ A Mistress Jaka here to see you M'Lord.

We've been outflanked as eccentrics
Now we have to beat them with class.
What do you mean?
I mean, Term forbid, I have to turn you into a gentleman...





DECLINE ANYTHING TO EAT THAT IS OFFERED TO YOU... I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO TEACH YOU TABLE-MANNERS.

③

PAGE① DRUNK COMING HOME TO THE REGENCY SINGING A TAVERN BALLAD AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS...

② Milady. THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE ~~Blood et cetera, etc?~~ =JUICE= JUST POUR HIM INTO THAT CHAIR THERE. THANK YOU.

~~CEREBUS FEELS BOTH~~ ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BETTER... WERE DRUNK TOO

DON'T MIND IF I DO

~~BLOOD~~ ~~OUT WOULD IS~~ ~~PORT~~ POUR?

No, it just helps move the hangover up by a few hours

HSANB 3/35 · It would have been nice to have had a few pages to do MY FAIR LADY:
ASTORIA: We've been outflanked as eccentrics. Now we have to beat them with class.
CEREBUS: What do you mean?
ASTORIA: I mean, Ter'm forbid, I have to turn you into a gentleman...
ASTORIA: Decline anything to eat that is offered to you... I don't have enough time to teach you table manners.

(3) Elrod is about to take His a freak. ~~a~~ a curiosity item ... Yes he is the people of lest are quite partial to curiosity items as their ranking diplomatic rep

Astoria consulting an astrologer

HSANB 4/35 -
ASTORIA: Elrod is about to take [your place].
CEREBUS: He's a freak. A curiosity item...
ASTORIA: Yes, he is. The people of lest are quite partial to curiosity items as their Ranking Diplomatic representatives.

Had the idea, briefly, of dressing Cerebus in a variation on Lord Julius' Festival of Petunias costume, then worked on the "businessman's haircut."

(4) Church is in disarray since death of Grand Inquisitor and Holland M. Hadden. They've thrown this mess into ~~the lap~~ the lap of the prime minister.

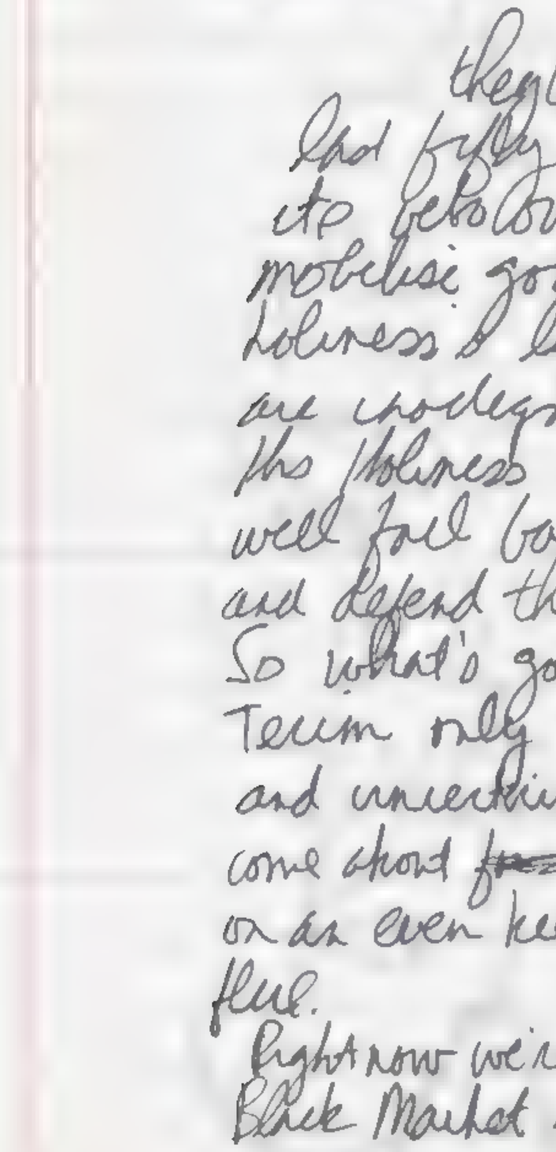
35
3

No prime minister in history has ever handled a problem of this magnitude if he could see it coming
Who'd he throw it to?
The Grand Ecclesiastical ~~Council~~ Court of Judgement.
Church has all of its troops mobilised to guard the Sanctum Sanctorum the Ushers' summer residence
They believe this to be the apogalyp they've been anticipating for the last fifty generations. The church returns its debtor any ~~government~~ - move to mobilise government forces... and without his Holiness's legions, the government troops are inadequate to attack or defend!
The Holiness hopes that government troops will fall back at the first sign of trouble and defend the Upper City
So what's going to happen?
Terim only knows... there's enough basic inertia and uncertainty about how the collapse will come about ~~for them to be certain~~ to keep everything on an even keel for years before it all goes up the flue.
Right now we're competing for our share of the Black Market trade

HSANB 5/35 - Astoria turning Cerebus into a gentleman, in the visual side, was a good opportunity for a massive disclosure of information on the dialogue side:
ASTORIA: [The] Church is in disarray since [the] death of [the] Grand Inquisitor and Holland M. Hadden. They've thrown this mess into the lap of the [P]rime [M]inister. No [P]rime [M]inister in history has ever handled a problem of this magnitude if he could see it coming.
CEREBUS: Who'd HE throw it to?

continued...

④ Church is in disarray since death of Grand Inquestor and Holland M. Hadden. Use the throw this mess into ~~the Cage~~ the lap of the prime minister.



No prime minister in history has ever handled a problem of this magnitude & he could see it coming Who'd be throw it to?
the Grand Ecclesiastical ~~Council~~ Court of Judgement.
Church has all of its troops mobilised to guard the Sanctum Sanctorum Hs Holiness' summer residence They believe this to be the apocalypse they've been anticipating for the last fifty generations. the church retains its veto over any ~~threat~~ move to mobilise government forces... and without his Holiness's legions, the government troops are inadequate to attack or defend. His Holiness hopes that government troops will fall back at the first sign of trouble and defend the Upper City
So what's going to happen?
Terim only knows... there's enough basic inertia and uncertainty about how the collapse will come about ~~for them to be a threat~~ to keep everything on an even keel for years before it all goes up the flue.
Right now we're competing for our share of the Black Market trade

ASTORIA: The Grand Ecclesiastical Court of Judgement. [The] Church has all of its troops mobilized to guard the Sanctum Sanctorum [,] His Holiness' summer residence. They believe this to be the [A]pocalypse they've been anticipating for the last fifty generations. The [C]hurch retains its veto over any move to mobilize government forces...and without [H]is [H]oliness' Legions, the government troops are inadequate to attack or defend. His Holiness hopes that government troops will fall back at the first sign of trouble and defend the Upper City.
CEREBUS: So [,] what's going to happen?
ASTORIA: Terim only knows...there's enough basic inertia and uncertainty about how the collapse will come about to keep everything on an even keel before it all goes up the flue. Right now[,] we're competing for our share of the Black Market trade.
All very interesting and pertinent, but with only ten issues left to go, I had to face the fact that the 500-page examination of Politics and Religion in lest was going to have to be limited to Politics alone, so I had them discuss the basic structure of government Deficit Financing – which has, inexplicably, made a comeback in the 21st century. Once the 80s were over I never thought I'd hear the term "Stimulative Deficit" used again, except ironically. A big reason they changed it to "Quantitative Easing" at the first opportunity is my best guess.

Your job is to reassure all of the businessmen that their money is safe.
How does Cerebus do that?
Just being here is a good enough reason. You're the first major political figure to come to the Upper City in almost fifteen years.
~~I'd get them to put in a dance~~
They were afraid to enact the three per cent increase in tariffs because they thought it would anger Lord Julius and he'd foreclose on the city.
Foreclose?
~~Like to maybe marry~~ Diplomatic Grapevine. Lord Julius is spreading a rumour that he holds a First Mortgage on the city of Iest and ~~to~~ will foreclose and that he'll foreclose ~~on the~~ and sell the property to the Onliu for a bag of beads. Unless the city agrees to deal only with Palnu.
That's ridiculous.
Of course it is... but to the highly staffed ghetto of the Upper City, it seems a real possibility. The last three prime ministers have run up enormous debts and concealed them in their financial reports. ~~The deficit increases are terrified the Council will find out how much they are~~ If it were to come to their attention that a previous P.M. had signed a first mortgage on ~~the~~ his country's assets to prevent disclosure of his cash shortfalls... I doubt it would be more dramatic than the shrug of their shoulders.
Then what are we doing here?
I've assumed from the beginning that you were here to remove as much money out of Iest. as possible before the whole thing collapses. I'm trying to do that without attracting too much attention. That was why I was so upset that you didn't

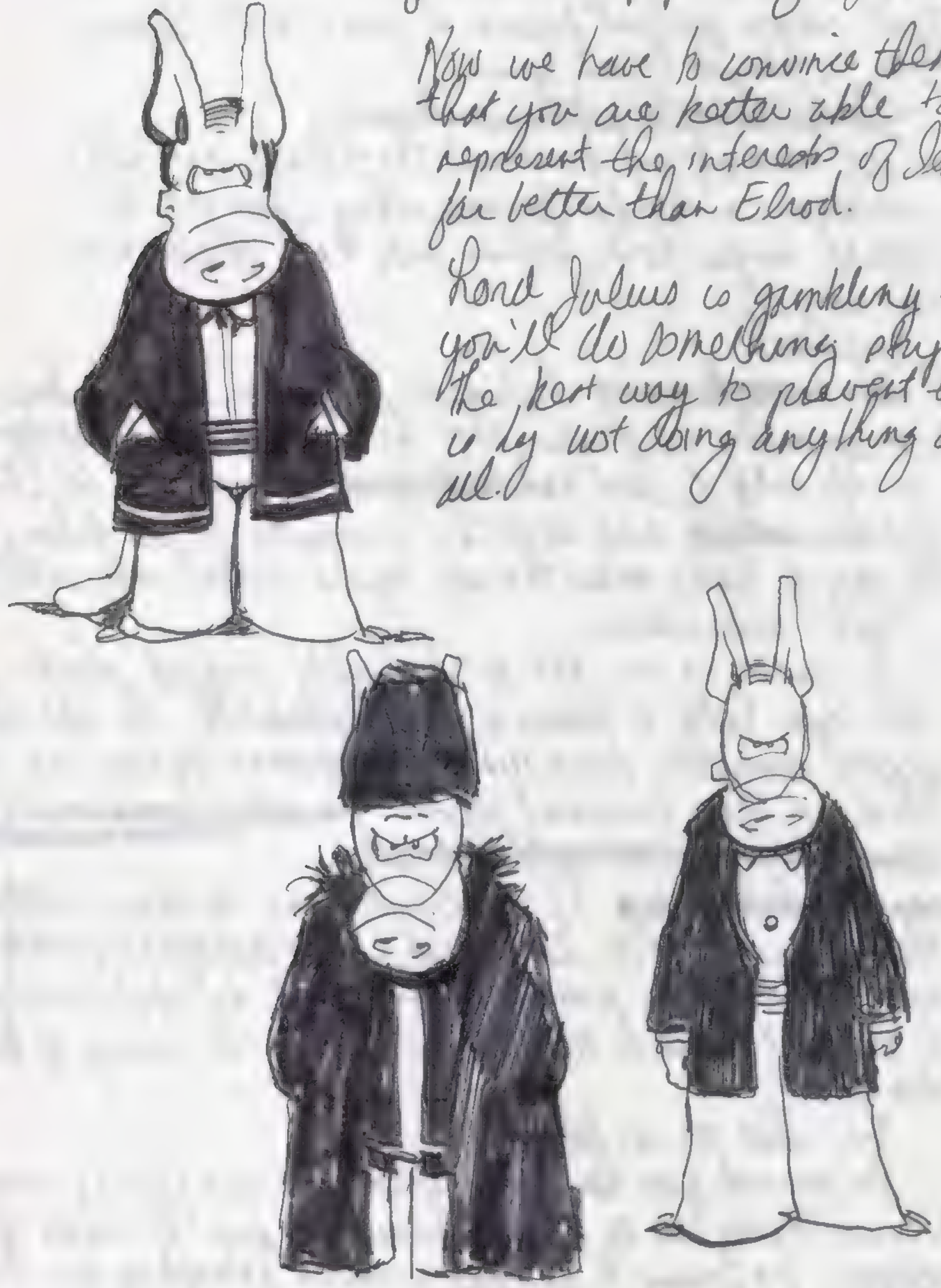
HSANB 6/35 - Shifting gears to a political conversation. I liked the "Lord Julius is spreading a rumour that he holds a First Mortgage on the city of Iest and that he'll foreclose and sell the property to the Onliu for a bag of beads unless the city agrees to deal only with Palnu." Very Lord Julius, very satirical. But that was when I thought, what could sound MORE satirical than Deficit Financing? Which would be even funnier because my audience probably wouldn't know that it was the way the world was – and is – being run. It actually takes 30 years and a Eurozone crisis to bring it to popular attention.

Lord Julius has officially adopted Elrod as his son

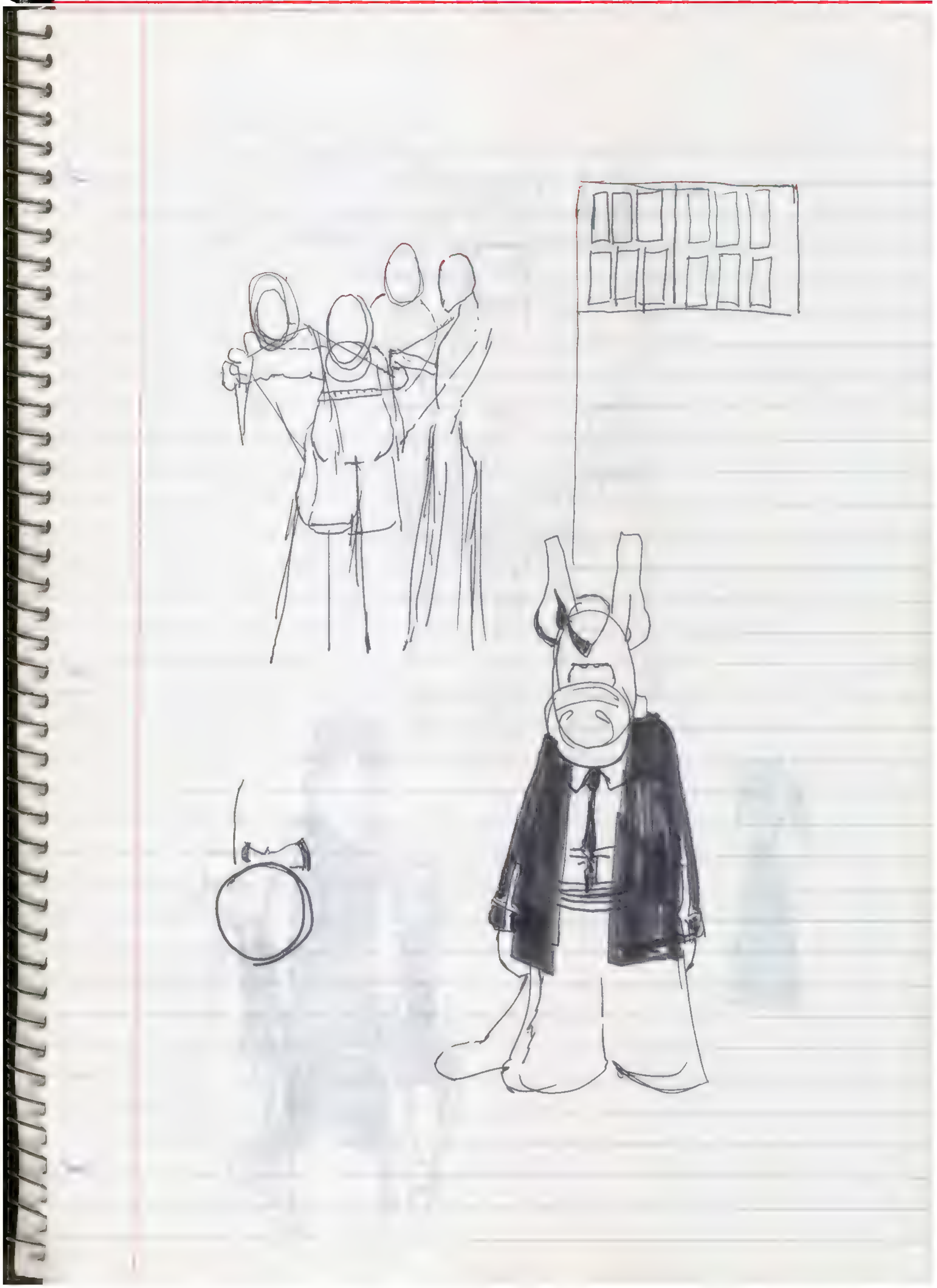
"The Albino heir" indicates to the civil servants and businessmen that Lord Julius considers the protection of Iest from outside forces as a top priority of Palmer.

Now we have to convince them that you are better able to represent the interests of Iest far better than Elrod.

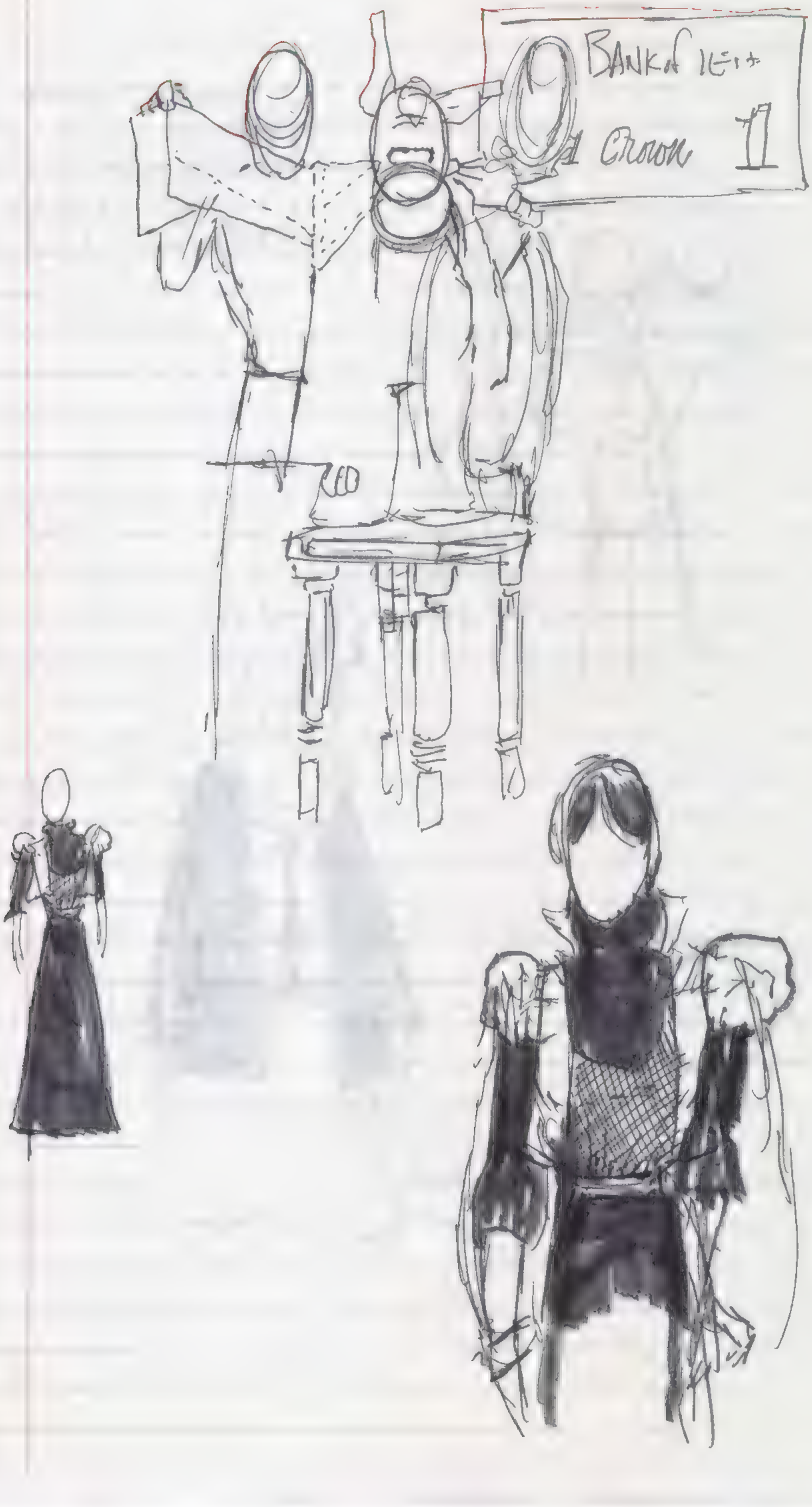
Lord Julius is gambling that you'll do something stupid. The best way to prevent that is by not doing anything at all.



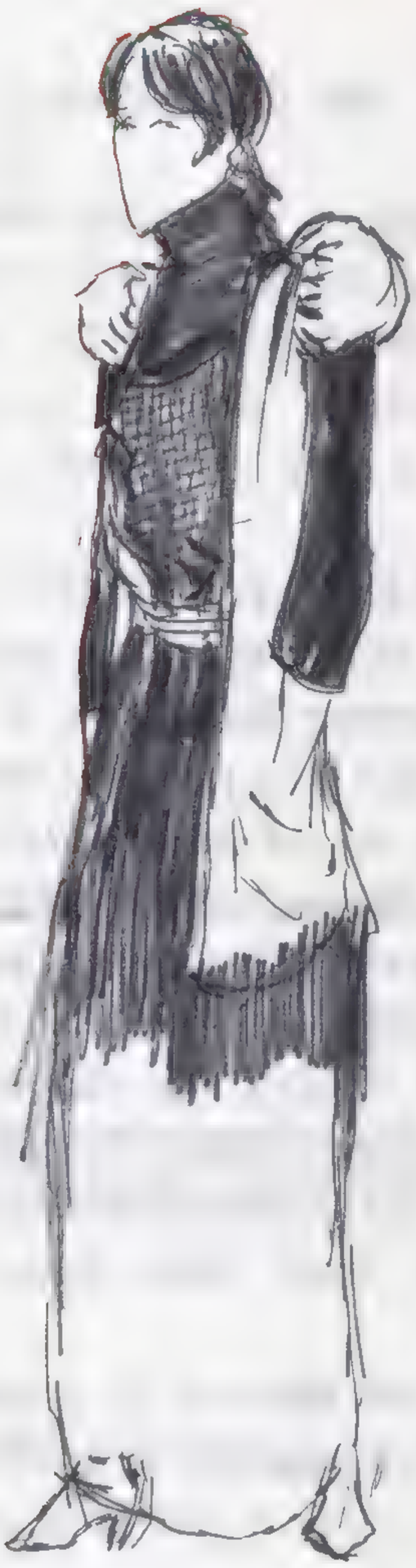
HSANB 7/35 - The reason Lord Julius had adopted Elrod as his son and some different "gentleman looks" for Cerebus.

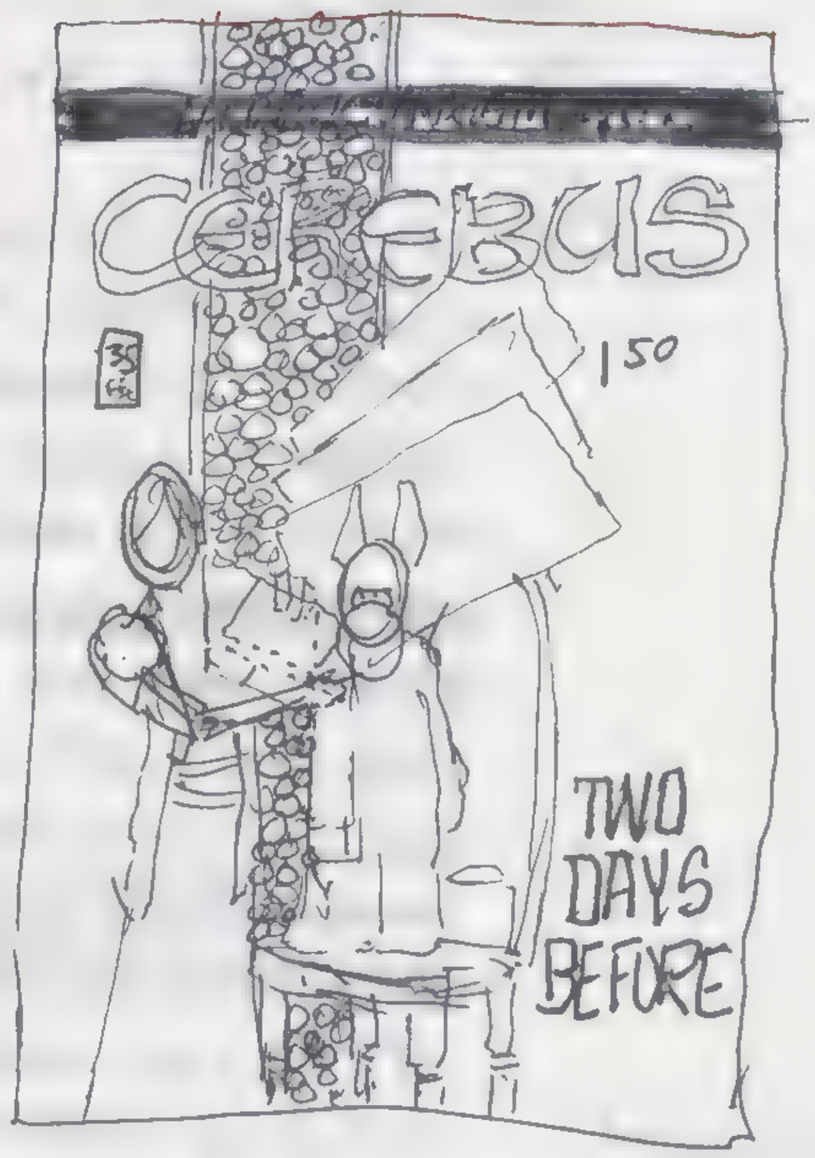


HSANB 8/35 - Trying to figure out a good page structure that I could fill with word balloons while letting the comedy of Cerebus actually being fitted for clothes carry the visual side.



HSANB 9/35 - Thinking of it as a cover idea at the bottom of the page – Astoria the costume designer: now THIS calls for an Edith Head/Katherine Hepburn outfit.





PAGE ① Cerebus arriving back drunk
② takes to his room - silly.
③ asleep

HSANB 10/35 - Edith Head/Katherine Hepburn outfit from another angle and an unused cover design for No.35.

CEREBUS #35 (FEB. 1982) "TWO DAYS BEFORE"

(2)

(1) CEREBUS COMES BACK DRUNK – FOUND AND GIVEN TO ASTORIA.
(2 AND 3) HE'S BEING SILLY SO SUE GIVES HIM SOMETHING TO DRINK (4) SOBERS HIM RIGHT UP. JUST MOVES THE HANGOVER UP BY A FEW HOURS WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT A DOZEN RAW EGGS, A TUBFUL OF WATER, SOME HOT TOWELS AND VISE.
(5) (6) (7) (8) GETTING HIS GOOD SUIT READY.
LORD J. IS TRYING TO OUTPLANK US IN THE CURIOSITY ITEM DEPARTMENT SUBSTITUTING A FREEBOOTER ALBINO LOLLO WILL RESTORE THE FEELING OF SECURITY IN THE LOWER CLASSES
~~IT'S THEIR CITY IS BEING RUN BY THE BEST~~ ~~WHICH~~ FOR THE GREY FURRY DWARF LORD JULIUS WAS CHOSEN AS HIS SUCCESSOR *
AND WHO THEREFOR ASSURES THE BUSINESS MEN ~~OF TEST THAT LORD JULIUS PLANS TO INVIGORATE~~ ~~THE TWO ECONOMIES. WHEN HE RETIRES~~ OF TEST THAT LORD JULIUS WON'T ALLOW THEIR CITY TO GO BROKE.
WITH ELROD, LORD JULIUS ~~HAS~~ HAS AN INEXPENSIVE GESTURE. WITH YOU AS RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE IT'S GOING TO COST HIM MONEY.
WHY?
BECAUSE ~~I'M~~ ~~REPRESENTING~~ ~~[illegible]~~
I keep advocating that ~~they should cheat~~ the Government of TEST ~~has~~ should increase their prices they charge PACNU for consumer goods. to keep a cash flow coming into TEST. The more money coming in, the more I can siphon off in your name from the business community for keeping the economy of the city in operation.
What about the church?

* hypothesized in Cerebus #31 by Astoria herself.

HSANB 11/35 - Starting back at the beginning and trying another angle on the political discussion – before opting for a straight description of Deficit Financing.
ASTORIA: With Elrod, Lord Julius has an inexpensive gesture. With you as Ranking Diplomatic Representative it's going to cost him money.

continued...

CEREBUS #35 (FEB. 1982) "TWO DAYS BEFORE"

(2)

(1) CEREBUS COMES BACK DRUNK – FOUND AND GIVEN TO ASTORIA.
(2 AND 3) HE'S BEING SILLY SO SUE GIVES HIM SOMETHING TO DRINK (4) SOBERS HIM RIGHT UP. JUST MOVES THE HANGOVER UP BY A FEW HOURS WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT A DOZEN RAW EGGS, A TUBFUL OF WATER, SOME HOT TOWELS AND VISE.
(5) (6) (7) (8) GETTING HIS GOOD SUIT READY.
LORD J. IS TRYING TO OUTPLANK US IN THE CURIOSITY ITEM DEPARTMENT SUBSTITUTING A FREEBOOTER ALBINO LOLLO WILL RESTORE THE FEELING OF SECURITY IN THE LOWER CLASSES
~~IT'S TRAGIC CITY IS BEING RUN BY THE BEST~~ FOR THE GREY FURRY DWARF LORD JULIUS WAS CHOSEN AS HIS SUCCESSOR *
AND WHO THEREFOR ASSURES THE BUSINESS MEN ~~OF REST THAT LORD JULIUS PLANS TO INVESTIGATE THE TOWN ECONOMIES. WHEN HE RETIRES~~
OF REST THAT LORD JULIUS WON'T ALLOW THEIR CITY TO GO BROKE.
WITH ELROD, LORD JULIUS ~~HAS~~ WAS AN INEXPENSIVE GESTURE. WITH YOU AS PLANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE IT'S GOING TO COST HIM MONEY.
WHY?
BECAUSE ~~I'M REMINDING~~ I keep advocating that ~~they should cheat~~ the Government of REST ~~has~~ should increase their prices they charge PALNU for consumer goods. to keep a cash flow coming into REST. The more money coming in, the more I can siphon off in your name from the business community for keeping the commerce of the city in operation.
What about the church?

* hypothesized in Cerebus #31 by Astoria herself.

CEREBUS: Why?
ASTORIA: Because I keep advocating that the Government of lest should increase the prices they charge Palnu for consumer goods to keep a cash flow coming into lest. The more money coming in, the more I can siphon off in your name from the business community for keeping the commerce of the city in operation.

When the Grand Inquisitor was killed by a giant stone moon while trying to interrogate you about the death of the church's biggest advocate in the business community, the Church was left with a great deal less power and a great deal less influence.
All of the Highness' legions have ~~been~~ returned to the Upper City, the Highness having decided that the Apocalypse is at hand, to defend Thrum's representative and his holdings
But what about the lower city? - the countryside?
Held by government troops alone,
They'll never hold the city by themselves.
Probably not, but there's money still to be had before the walls of the lower city is breached. It'll be at least a decade before the upper city falls.
Why are you telling Cerebus all this.
Because Lord Julius has thrown ~~a~~ # some cinders into our gear-works... he's decided that if I can find money in a carcass like Jest, he can too. I moved too quickly, upset too many balances. If the business community decides that Elrod would cause more money to circulate through the economy than you, they'll approve your replacement at the next ~~time~~ sitting of the Legislature ~~it~~.
Lord Julius will virtually take over our whole operation, pressing us out of all of the money we've been working to get....
So it's all over then?
Not at all. All you have to do is convince the businessmen that you'll back them up with every half crown in Palnu's treasury. Get their signatures of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice on a Petition

HSANB 12/35 - "...Lord Julius has thrown some cinders into our gear works...he's decided that if I can find money in a carcass like Jest, he can too. I moved too quickly, upset too many balances. If the business community decides that Elrod would cause more money to circulate through the economy than you [would], they'll approve your replacement at the next sitting of the [L]egislature."

#35

(1) Cockus arrives back drunk
(2) Here he is oddly (3) asks drunk the blehh. No its not poison it just moves up your hangover by a few hours.
(4) ~~Read this. Cockus left.~~ You want something to eat? Half dozen raw eggs (5) Have the bath tub filled with cold water explaining more (6) Hot towels Mr Eddy in ~~Here~~ here (7) (8) Measuring coat and pattern
(9) I'm off to bed take those down to the seamstress and tell her we need the jacket shirt ~~and~~ waistcoat by tomorrow evening at the latest.
(10) Taking shirt down. Bran Mak Muffin. Talking to Cockus about the power and influence he's garnering You see this? Unless Cockus gets the signatures of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice Cockus won't ~~have any more influence than the desk clerk of the hotel~~. Be the ranking diplomatic representative anymore.
Mr Excellent idea! Why not propose instead ~~of course~~ ~~[illegible]~~ reveal the extent of the financial corruption under the present prime minister and offer yourself as a suitable replacement.
~~I thought I could go up [illegible] of your own~~
(12) [redacted]
~~Astoria [illegible] to Petite~~
(11) Bran Mac Muffin
(12) Bran Mac Muffin
(13) Astoria and the Prime Minister and Cockus
(14) Astoria, the Prime Minister Cockus. Lord Julius.
(15) Pay the man.
(16) Still later... more people in the room Signing a petition to have Cockus
(20) A mistress Jake of the Loneg of Queens, M Lord

HSANB 13/35 - Trying to figure out how to cram Bran Mak Mufin's idea of Cerebus running for Prime Minister into their brief one-page run-in in No.35. I was running out of room, but the story still needed to breathe, so I kicked that can down the road into the Petuniacon sequence. Having worked all of this out, I wanted to fit it in somewhere but I was running out of room, so I had to limit myself to alluding to all of it.

HSANB 14/35 - I decided to promote the scene to the front cover to communicate that Bran was a significant figure in the storyline even though he had only had a couple of walk-ons to that point.

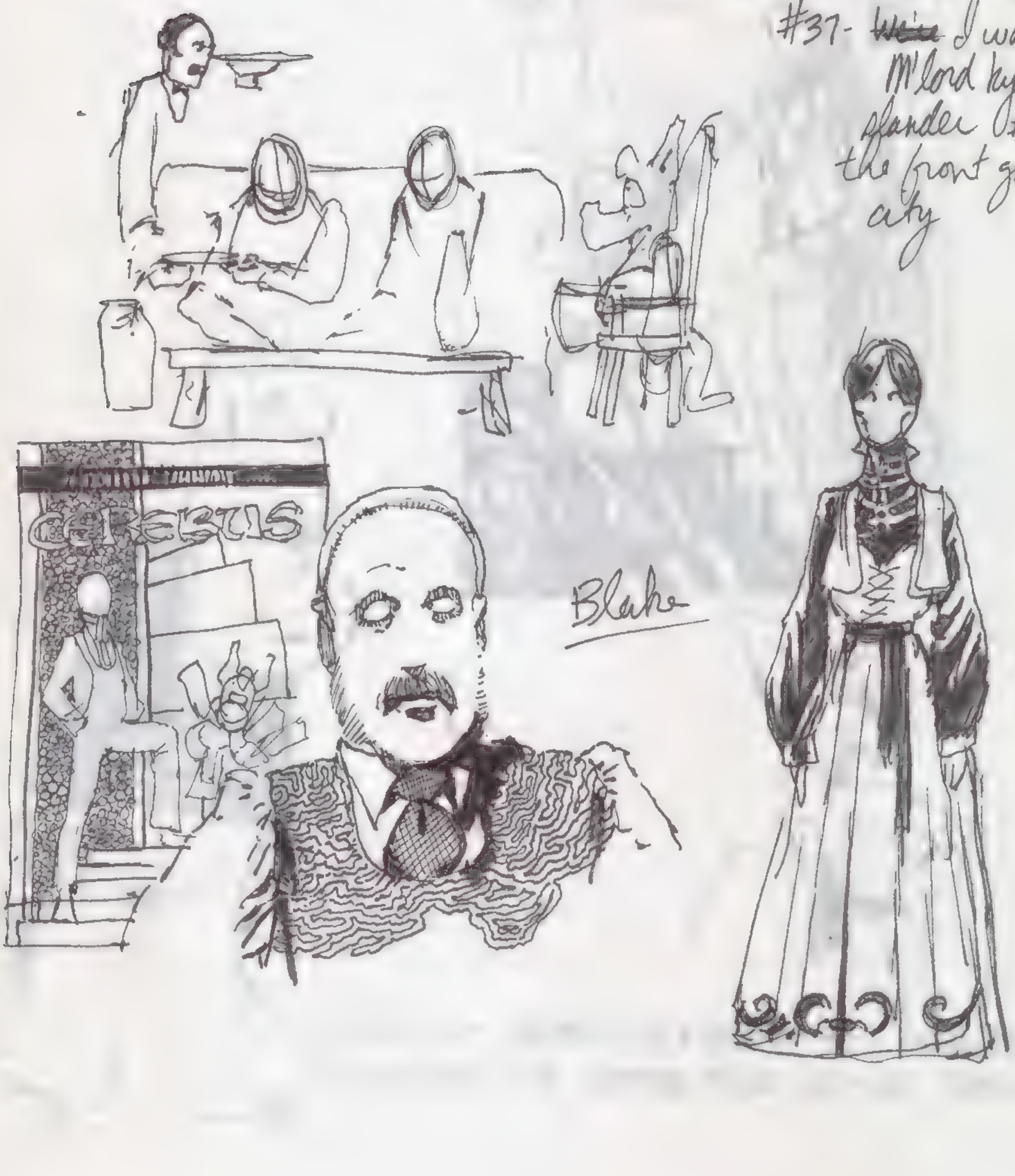
Still working on Cerebus' "new look".

#37 ELF- What would you want a job like that for?

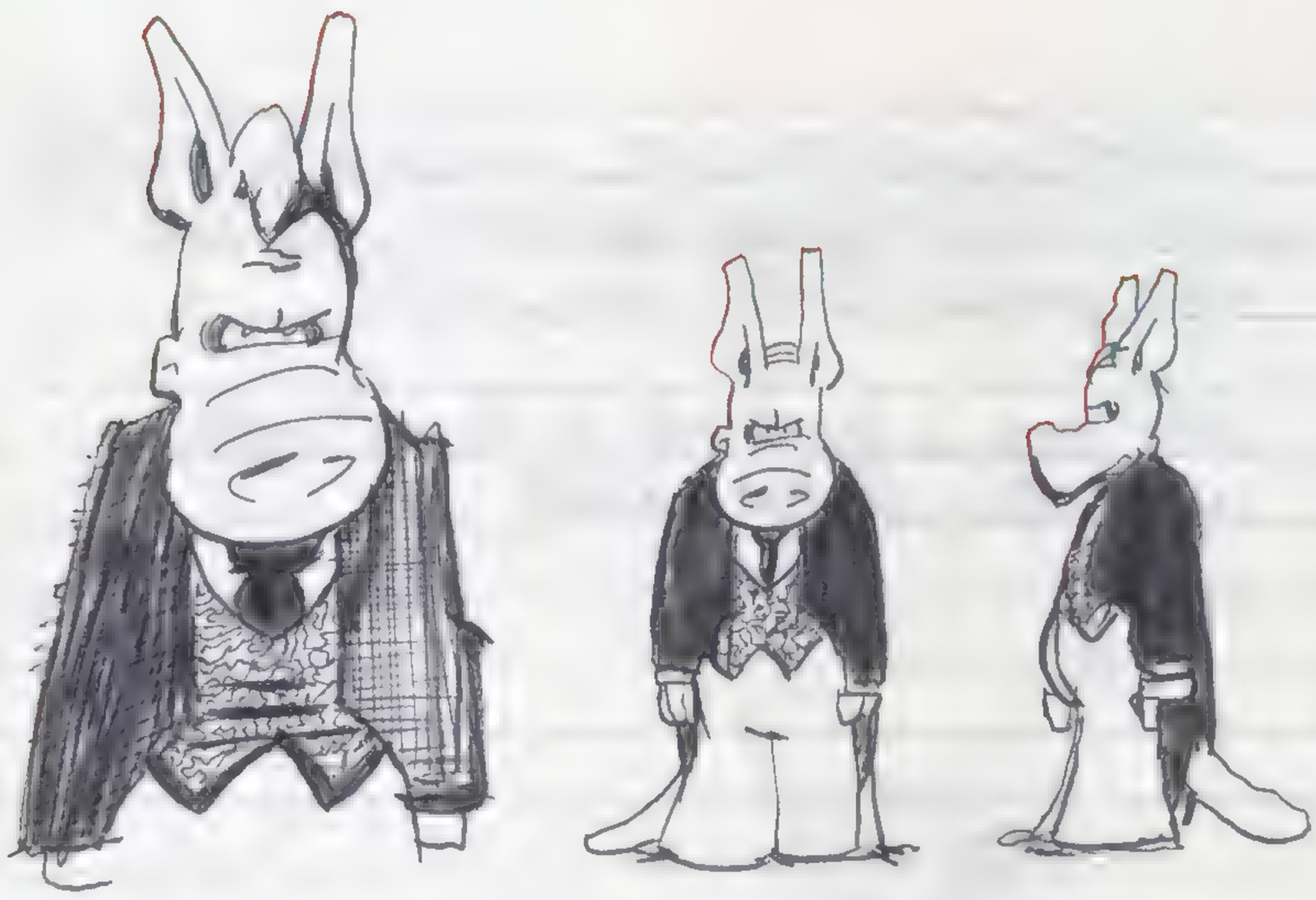
[redacted]

You're not going to be able to change anything

#37- ~~Wine~~ I was shocked, M'lord by the malicious slander ~~spread~~ over the front gate of the city



HSANB 15/35 - Another angle on the front cover. Lord Julius as the waiter. That part would write itself. First sketch of Blakely, then just called Blake. Costume design for Astoria – "girly" because she wanted something from the Prime Minister (Audrey Hepburn instead of Katherine Hepburn): the Astorias of this world all go "girly" when they want something.



#35 (5)(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)

- last the relationship with Lord Julius advantage he's adopted Elrod.
- we're going with Cerebus: he's good for business.
- Now- first we have to make you look like you're good for business.

getting suitable ~~clothes~~ evening clothes. We won't show up until dinner-time the second day. Hospitality room. Lord Julius has rented the we're going to rent the Oak Room and the adjacent gardens.

(10) okay take it downstairs to the seamstress

(11) trying to cut Cerebus' hair he keeps squirming around in bad chair.

(5) THE CLOTHES
(12) THE HAIRCUT. I told them we needed. that

Right turnout will favour us.

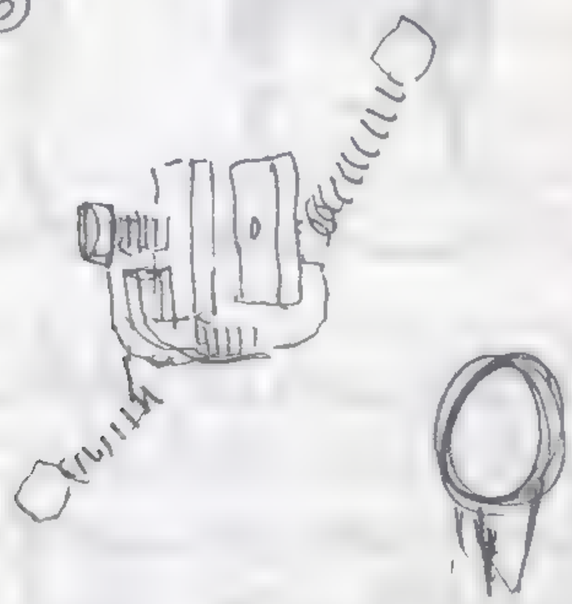
find as many ways ~~to say~~ as you can to say that you will drain the coffers of Palnu to keep the grand and ancient city of lest solvent.

HSANB 16/35 - Finished design for Cerebus the Ranking Diplomatic Representative.
Astoria as political handler was a stretch. Women don't tend to make good political handlers but, then, Margaret Thatcher was an exception to the rule that women make quite ordinary political figures. Political handler instruction:
"Find as many ways as you can[,] to say that you will drain the coffers of Palnu to keep the grand and ancient city of lest solvent."

sending out invitations to be a co-host of the hospitality room to five different businessmen with high profile positions in the government.

we're going to have to sell the Prime Minister on you being the best candidate

Page ⑤



1 CEREBUS ENTERING PRUNK
2 SILLY
3 SOBER HIM UP
4 WANTS TO KILL HIMSELF. A SHORT WHILE LATER
5 ~~SEVERAL HOURS LATER~~ ASTORIA EXPLAINING
6 SUIT BEING MEASURED
7 SWITCH TILES.
8 HAIRCUT.
9 TAKE SPECIFICATIONS DOWNSTAIRS "SUEDE BY BEFORE"
10 ~~THE NEXT DAY~~. CEREBUS IN OPEN NECKED WHITE SHIRT AND WAISTCOAT.
11 SELLING THE PRIME MINISTER ON CEREBUS AS PARKING DRAMATIC REPRESENTATIVE.
12 P65 1-4 PRUNK to SOBER
13 5-12
14 IN COMES LORD SILLS. WITH ROD

HSANB 17/35 - Terse phrase synopsis pretty much up through page 14.

Cockus:
the jig is up.

~~Lord~~ Julius

Astoria:
~~If there's enough game, you~~
~~can't keep the predators away.~~
~~for long~~
~~Lord Julius wants money as~~
~~much as you do. He's re established~~
~~credit with the Bank of Iest.~~

Pg 5.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER

okay Cockus can at least see now.

Pg 6 (1) (you should have left Cockus drunk.. We're FINISHED
Handley, darling. we're just switching tactics
... Lord Julius is trying to out flank us by
nominating a bigger novelty item than you for KDR

(2) (~~Sorry~~. You want to ~~re~~ rehearse that?
~~You tends't to be so sensitive about it~~... it's
~~made you... the good Lord's attributes~~
~~is going to make you very wealthy~~
~~Elrod's nomination as~~ Palmore has it that Lord

(3) (Julius has adopted Elrod. The business community
sees it as a commitment from ~~Lord~~ Palmer to keep
IEST solvent.

(4) (It's it? I doubt it. More likely Lord Julius is

HSANB 18/35 - Rough dialogue for the MY FAIR LADY scene but pretty close to the finished version.

throwing them Elrod as an empty, but flamboyant gesture... to keep them buying their consumer goods from Palnu declusively.

So how is changing Cerebus' image going to help?

(3) We're going to announce that if you are confirmed as Iest's place for diplomatic representation, you will use every last crown in Palnu's treasury to support IEST's economy, starting with a transfer of a half million PALNAN crowns to the Bank of Iest.

Cerebus doesn't get it.

Sun Lord Julius's treasury

It's easily twice as much as Lord Julius is prepared to offer.

What's to stop him from announcing that Cerebus has no connection with Palnu's treasury?

We'll be identical. But you're not his choice minister. You're not of the realm.

That will force Lord Julius to match the offer. If he does, we make it one million, one million five, two million.

Eventually, he'll have to withdraw Elrod's nomination to cut his losses and pay whatever amount we promise to IEST...

Then why doesn't IEST just demand the money themselves?

For the same reason they were hesitant to vote an increase in the tariffs, their economy is on the downslide and they're afraid Lord Julius will cut off their credit.

Will he?

No one cuts off credit anymore. You just charge more interest.

Even if they can't pay?

Of course, otherwise, you have to call your previous debts, all daily recorded in a thousand ledgers, as a loss.

HSANB 19/35 - Ditto.

and adjust all your forecasts of future sales downward.

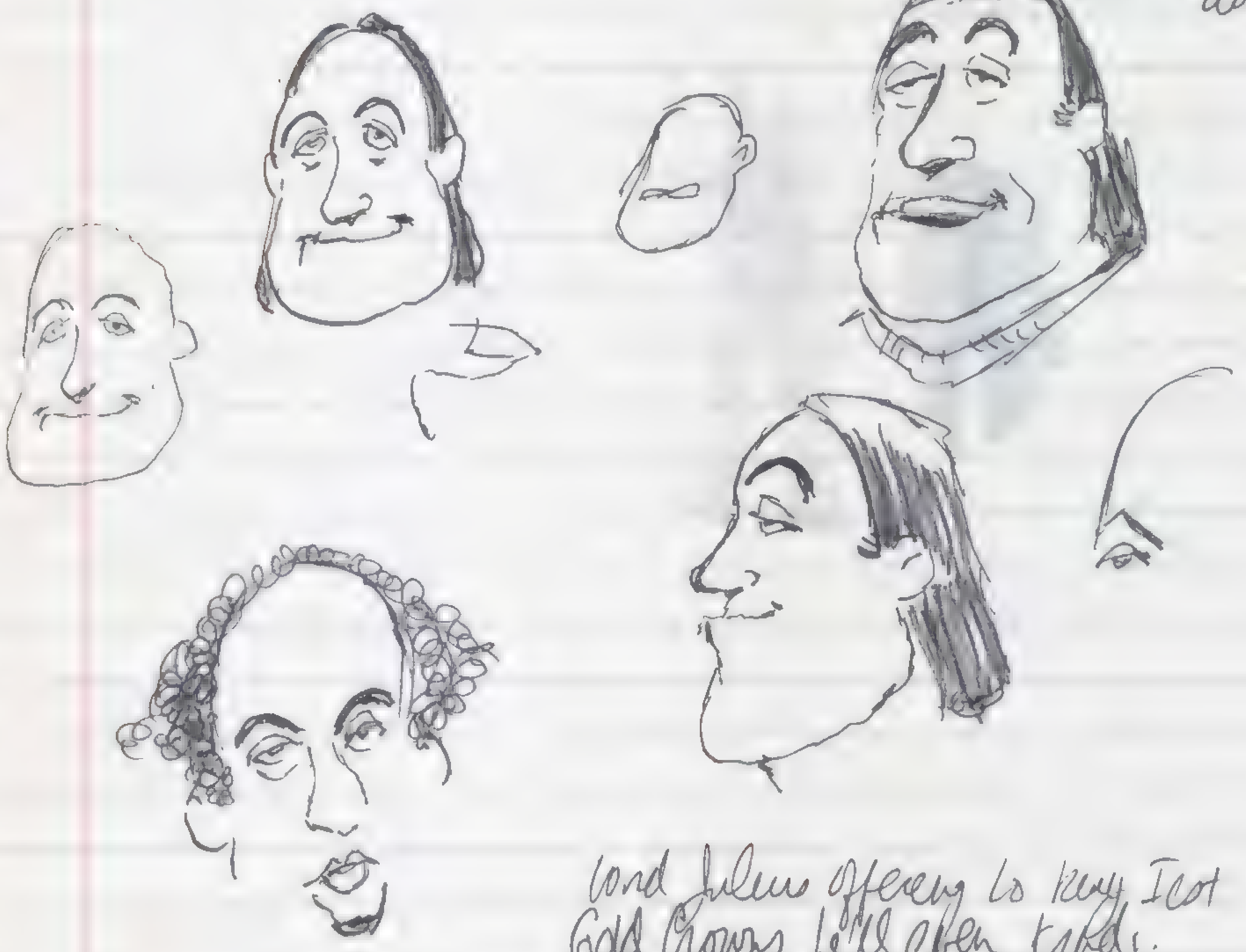
If you just increase the interest payments you can fool that sales are up? ~~you can't~~ and that someday you'll get paid.

Take these into the front room and try them on...

#37. Brooklynite representative of da docks.
I represen da docks
da docks. ~~da lower city~~... waddah ya? deaf?
da low-a city where dey put
da boats..
da docks.

MAD at Cerebus all the way to the front door of the hospitality room

Waddam I? Da Goodwill?



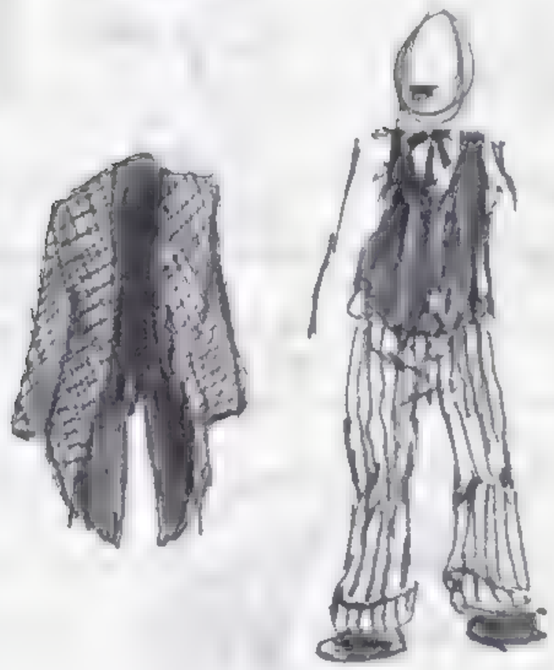
Lord Julius offering to buy Ice Gold Crowns he'd eben trade.

ILLUSTRATION FROM #"BETWEEN ISSUES 20 AND 21" INTRODUCES VARIOUS AS A NEW MEMBER OF LORD JULIUS' STAFF.

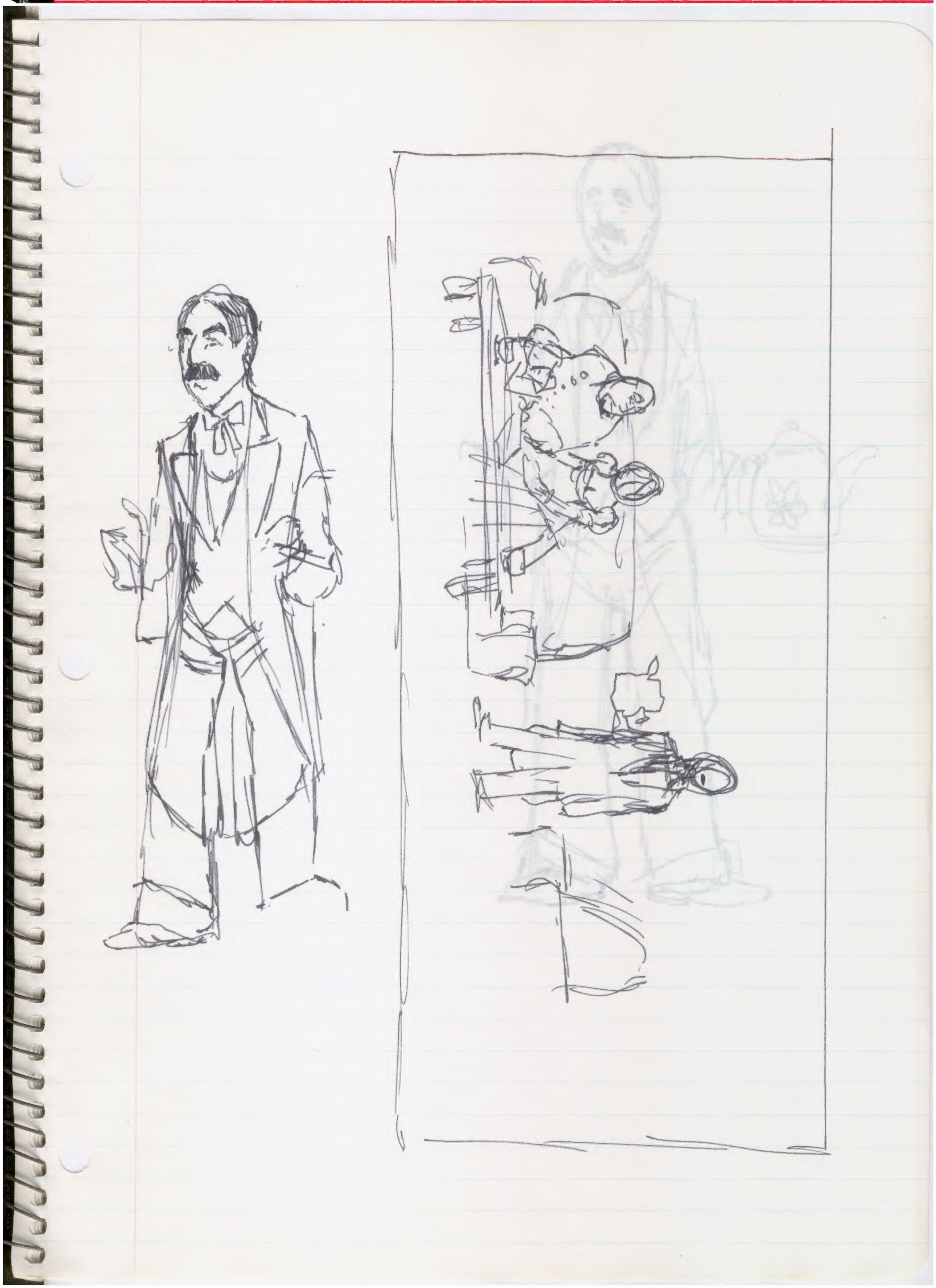
HSANB 20/35 - Caricature of Phil Seuling, the founder of the Direct Market distribution system with his distribution company, SeaGate Distributors of Brooklyn, New York as "Brooklynite representative of da docks." That is, The Docks district of lest. "I represen' da Docks" was there at the beginning. As was "Waddam I? Da Goodwill?"

WORD JULIUS WAS TRUE COOTIE LEAPING AROUND
ANYWHERE ELSE BUT PAUSE TO KEEP WEISSKAUPT
FROM EVER TELLING ABOUT HIS PRINTING PRESS
SUPER FAST JABBER
COMBINED PHOTO ENGRAVING THAT HE ABOUT
LEARNED HOW TO DO.

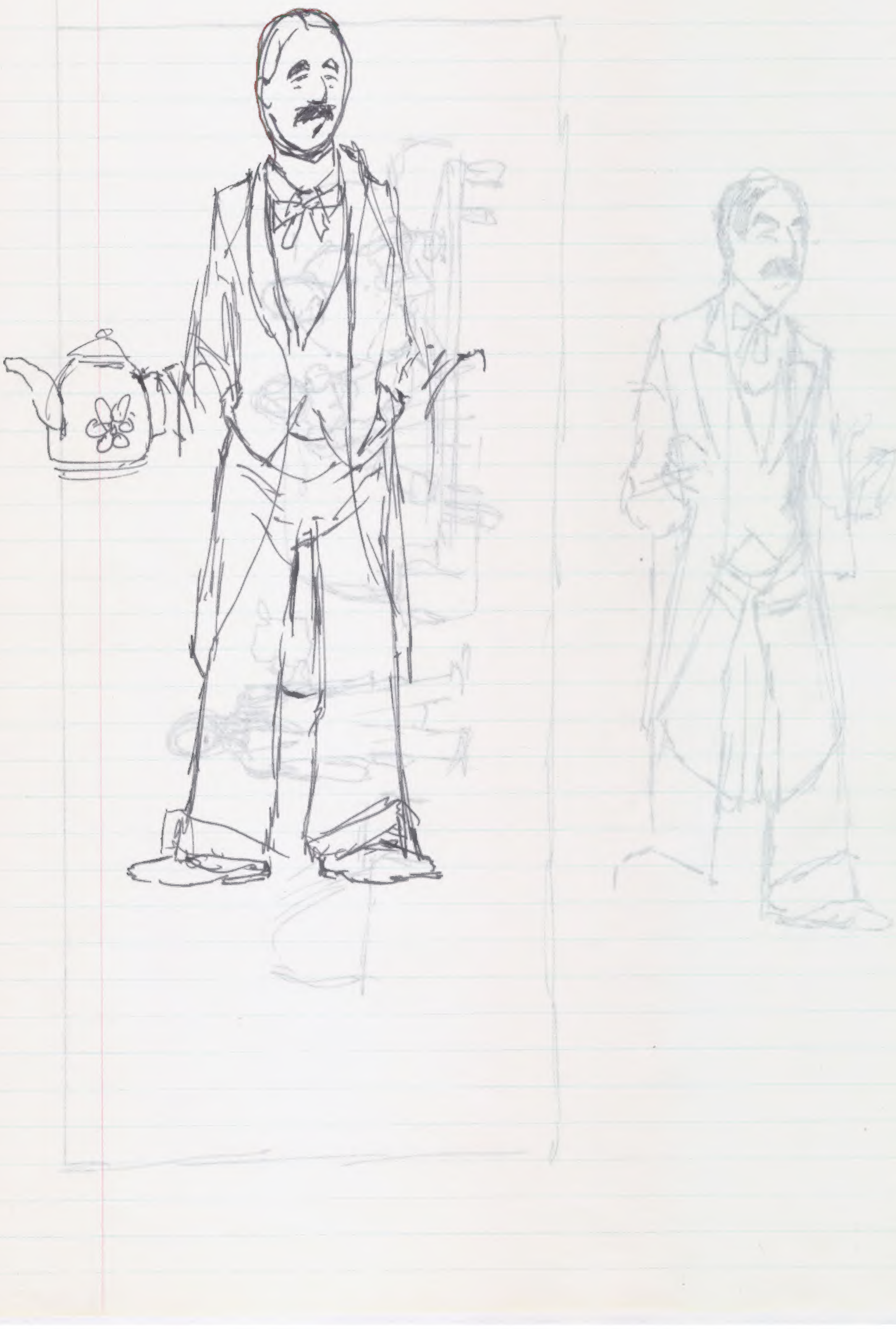
PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THEIR SPIRIT
BROKEN ANYMORE, ASTORIA --
IT'S QUITE PAINLESSLY EROPED.
THAT'S WHAT A BUREAUCRACY
IS FOR.



HSANB 21/35 - I had a recording of a Marx Brothers film (THE COCONUTS?) with a scene where Groucho takes off his overcoat briefly so I could see what the shirt vest and pants looked like underneath.



HSANB 22/35 - Moving Lord Julius and the scenery around. Should he arrive between Cerebus and where Astoria and the Prime Minister are sitting?



HSANB 23/35 - A funny coffee pot? You want to keep all props – except for a cigar – as far away from Groucho as you can. All they can do is distract you. You'll notice in the final version he just serves the two cups on a tray and then the tray just magically disappears.

365 1/4 days per solar year
29 days / ~~month~~ lunar month
24 hours / day

12.586206
29)365.000000
29↓
75
58
170
145
250
232
180
174
60
58
200

12.
29)365.25
29↓ ↓
75
58
133

29)365.25

~~30)5~~

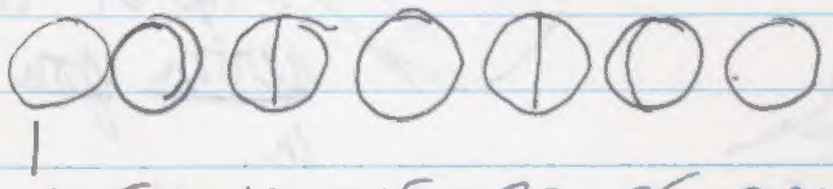
12.594482
29)365.250000
29↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
75
58
172
145
275
261
140
116
240
232
80
58
220

~~10 days~~ 5 day week
6 week month

12 months
29 days

365 days

7 phases



NEW MOON
QUARTER
HALF MOON

CONCORDANCE HOLY DAYS.

29.5 days
12.6

5 5 day weeks

~~FATE~~

HSANB 24/35 - When would the Concordance Holy Days take place? Lengthy math problem. Who said there needed to be twelve months in a year? What about a five-day week and a six-week month? A problem I wouldn't tackle again until Cerebus reinvented the calendar in LATTER DAYS.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church tate
church tate
JAKA STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
RICK'S STORY
GOING HOME
FARM VOID
CUTTER DAYS
THE LAST DAY